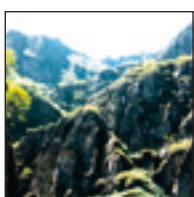


A mountain wilderness that sees few visitors, Xiaowutai is a weekend getaway where you can experience four seasons in one day. **Page 16**



Three years ago, Cao Yufei, then a consultant with Xinguoda Futures defrauded more than 500M RMB from over 4,000 clients of the company. **Page 8**



Yu Shiying looks like any other Chinese grandmother, except that instead of grandchildren bouncing on her knees, you will find cats, 40 cats to be precise. **Page 9**



BEIJING TODAY

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City Pledges Athlete-Centered Games in 2008

The grounds of a century-old palace will be used for the reunion of all Olympians if Beijing wins the right to host the 2008 Games, Mayor Liu Qi declared on Tuesday.

Liu, president of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Bid Committee (BOBICO), said the bid committee had decided to dedicate the palace to Olympians.

"On the eve of International Olympic Day, we present this special gift to all the Olympians of the world," Liu said of Prince Jun's Palace near Chaoyang Park, which dates back to 1881. The mayor committed Beijing to an athlete-oriented Olympiad, offering the palace as an Olympian Reunion Center.

Representatives of the World Olympians Association (WOA) and almost half China's Olympic champions gathered for the gala dinner celebrating tomorrow's upcoming International Olympic Day.

WOA secretary general Liston Bochette said there could be no better place to celebrate Olympic Day than the palace in this city.

The WOA delegation included Barcelona Olympic gymnastic champion Henni Onodi of Hungary. "Although we arrived here only last night, we still had a little bit of time to walk around," she said. "I was impressed by the city, it is better than we had thought."

(Xinhua)

Foreigners Can Call International Rescue

By Xia Lei

"Hello. This is nine nine emergency rescue center. What can I do for you?" asked Qi Dexia, an English-language operator at the Beijing 999 Emergency Rescue Center.

The rehearsed lines marked the opening of the international service at the center. Foreign visitors and Beijing residents can now dial "999" for emergency rescue. On May 15 this year, a Chinese was wounded at the border between India and Pakistan. He was rescued

by Beijing International SOS Emergency Center.

This let people know that Beijing could provide an international rescue service. There are few emergency rescue centers offering services to foreigners in China. However, with increasing numbers of visitors coming to China, demand is increasing.

SOS is a joint service launched by Beijing 999 Emergency Rescue Center and Beijing International SOS Emergency Rescue Center. The center will add a French and Japanese service in August.

Shenyang Mayor, Deputy, Expelled from Party



Mu Suixin

Facing corruption charges, the former mayor and deputy mayor of Shenyang have been expelled from the Communist Party and dismissed from government employment.

Mu Suixin is accused of taking "enormous" bribes, according to official sources. The former mayor of the capital city of Liaoning Province has also been dismissed as a deputy to the Ninth National People's Congress, as well as to the provincial and city-level people's congresses, according to Wu Dingfu of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

Mu stands accused of trading favors as director of the provincial department of construction, deputy governor of Liaoning and also as mayor.

His case has been transferred to judicial organs for further investigation. Ma Xiangdong, former deputy mayor, has been expelled from the Party, dismissed from his public position and arrested. Ma is suspected of taking bribes from his subordinates and gang leaders, as well as embezzling public funds and gambling overseas.

Central Commission Vice-Chairman Liu Liying said Mu's case was "typical of how senior officials abuse their power for personal gain." He warned officials at all levels to take heed. **(Xinhua)**

EDITOR: LIU FENG DESIGNER: PANG LEI



Jose Carreras and Luciano Pavarotti rehearse on Wednesday.

Photo by Lu Beifeng

Ready for Tenors

By Xiao Rong

Two out of three are already here. Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras arrived Tuesday. Placido Domingo, who held a recital in the Great Hall of the People on May 29, will arrive tonight.

Two dragons, 14 meters high, 12 meters wide, wind around pillars by the largest stage in China, ready

for tomorrow's Forbidden City Hall concert.

Designed by Kong Zhong Modern Drama Troupe, the two dragons are set against the ancient walls of the Forbidden City, symbolizing

Chinese ancient culture.

Besides the magnificent stage, there are advanced backstage facilities including a lounge, dressing room, rest room and refrigerator all available for the historic concert.

Black Bears Set Free



An Asiatic black bear.



Paradise staff open the gate.

By Xiao Rong

The four cages are placed in line. Shen Shen shakes his bars and roars with rage. Zhai Qinglong, chairman of the Badaling "Paradise for Bears", feeds each occupant their favorite, watermelon. Then he lays out slices on a fruity track away from the throng.

Reporters from Beijing, local media and residents have come here on a Sunday lunchtime to bid farewell to four Asiatic black bears at Jin Gouling Wild Animal Conservation Area, in Jilin province, northeast China.

For the four-hour journey from Yanji city to Jin Gouling, the two females and two males had mostly slept or gobbled watermelon in the heat. The momma bears weigh in at 115 and 117 kilograms, and the big guys around 160 and 172 kilograms, respectively, or respectfully, when dealing with a 5 or 6-year-old Changbai mountain bear.

At 1:15pm, the first gate swings open, but Bei Bei stays inside. He stays in his cell and appears to delight in the decor. Long minutes pass. Bei Bei edges out, then decides to head for the cage of Jing Jing. He stretches out both arms toward her for a hug.

Then Bei Bei looks over at his rival for Jing Jing's affection, or at least his rival according to Zhai. He strolls over to the cage and waves a desultory paw. Inside his jail, Shen Shen lets out a roar, the kind of roar one imagines an Asiatic black bear might make when, for example, an Asiatic black bear is very angry, or maybe very hungry. Or both. Keeper Zhai lets out Jing Jing and the two lovers cavort around the grass, rolling and hugging, before sauntering off into the woods.

Next, Ao Ao's cage opens. She takes a



Bei Bei chats with Jing Jing.

Photos by Jia Ting

while to notice too, but then steps out for a bite of melon. Now it's time for Winnie the Pooh. On stepping outside the cage, Shen Shen suddenly jumps back towards the press pack behind him. Everyone is frightened and steps backwards. He appears to remember he left his cellphone in the woods and bolts out of sight to a place where a grizzly bear more naturally seems to belong. Ao Ao ignores him and concentrates on dessert, seemingly unaware of her companions' disappearance. She finishes up the last slice, and then glances toward the Paradise personnel. They beckon her to leave.

At 2:30 pm, Ao Ao, the last bear, walks away. With radio collars around their necks, the four black bears will be tracked for a better chance of survival. Recognizable by the crescent-moon yellow stripes on their chests, Bei Bei, Jing Jing, Shen Shen and Ao Ao have been trained by paradise staff to climb trees, seek out food and dig their lairs. It might be difficult at first, but they will have to grin and bear it.

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Govt. to Sell off Shares in Listed SEOs

By Yang Xiao

On June 13, the State Council unveiled rules that aimed at reducing State holdings in companies in order to finance social security funds.

The long-expected regulation covers the transferring or selling of State shares in listed firms. It said companies making an IPO (initial public offering) or issuing additional share, should at the same time sell the equivalent of their State holdings to 10 per cent of the offering value to public investors. The money raised will be put into the social security funds. The rules also apply to firms seeking an overseas listing.

Pricing of the shares sold will be based on demand in the market. In addition, a handful of listed companies will also be

selected to place or buy back State shares on an experimental basis, depending on the funding needs of social security funds and the condition of the market. Listed companies which transfer State shares should also contribute a certain ratio of income to the social security funds, but the exact ratio is still to be decided. The Ministry of Finance will design rules for the management of social security funds later. And the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) will also come up with regulations on information disclosure in the selling of State shares by listed firms.

Minister of Finance Xiang Huaicheng said the reform is not only a timely cure for the fund-thirsty social security sector, but also very positive news for the stock market. While helping relieve the fund-shortage pressure

for the social security sector, it should also push the listed companies to lower the ratio of State holdings and diversify their shareholding structure. More participation of private shareholders would enhance public supervision in the management and operations of listed companies, said Xiang.

The CSRC Chairman Zhou Xiaochuan said it would help listed companies improve corporate governance and upgrade quality. Moreover, the government will invite professional fund managers to operate the social security funds and some of the funds will be reinvested in the stock market to ensure a benign recycling of capital. Presently, shares owned by the State and corporations account for about two-thirds of the total stocks in domestically listed companies and are still non-tradable as the result of the lingering influence of the planned

economy. They totaled 252.7 billion shares by the end of March, according to a report by the Finance and Securities Institute (FSI) of the People's University of China. "The reform to cut State holdings is closely connected to the entire economic restructuring in China. It will also promote positive changes in the social security fund management and investment scheme," said Wu Xiaohu, director of FSI.

The market response is not good. By the end of Monday the Shanghai index dropped 78 points from the previous Thursday 2245 to 2167. An unnamed analyst estimates reducing the state share is bad news to the market. "If the government reduces 1% of state shares, it will then arbitrage 36 billion yuan. He doubts the market has the capability to absorb the tremendous state shares.

Pricing Ceiling Adopted on 42 Categories of Medicines



A sales woman sells medicine at a pharmacy in Beijing.

Photo by Fan Jiwen

By Zhao Hongyi

The Price Bureau of Beijing Municipality has adopted an official price ceiling for the retail selling of 42 categories of medicines in Beijing. This is the second time this year the bureau has taken such steps.

The price ceiling, established since June 20, is based on the 'Notice of Price Limitation on 69 Chemical Medicines' promulgated by the State Development Planning Committee (SDPC) earlier this year. The 42 categories cover 398 antibiotics of different types and specifications, of which 300 have seen price reductions in recent days.

The effort is aimed at keeping the prices of medicines at a reasonable level, acceptable to the majority of consumers. The targeted medicines are mainly antibiotics such as penicillin. The Price Bureau has published detailed information about the move on its website; (<http://www.cpn.gov.cn>).

On May 20, the price bureau issued its first price limitation on the retail prices of 27 antitoxins,

affecting medicines falling under 69 categories.

"It is a continual process in the reform of our nation's medical insurance," said Zhou Daqin, director of the information office of the bureau. "The central government and local authority have taken the same measures on many medicines since 1997. In the year 2000 alone, the bureau lowered the prices of medicines three times covering a total sales volume of over 270 million yuan."

The 69 categories cover the basic medicines under the catalogue related to the state medical insurance policy. Among them, 27 have been adopted directly by the State Development Planning Committee (SDPC), and the remaining 42 have adopted a price ceiling reference by the SDPC, and local price authorities will determine the real market prices with an allowable fluctuation of 5% up and down.

The Bureau says constant inspections and monitoring will be taken to guarantee an immediate and continuous execution of the regulations.

"Grand Gold Culture," is the theme for the first China International Exhibition on Gold Products, June 19-22. More than 100 gold mining, processing and trade enterprises from a dozen countries and regions including China, South Africa, Germany, Britain and Hong Kong attend the four-day event in Beijing, China's capital.

The China Gold Corporation and major domestic gold producers carry out a series of technology and trade exchange and cooperation projects during the exhibition. China has 1,300 gold enterprises and China's gold output rank fourth in the world.

(Xinhua)

China to Host International Gold Products Exhibition



A visitor inspects a gold product at the exhibition.

Photo by Fan Jiwen

Chinese NGOs condemn Japanese Court's 'Comfort Woman' Ruling

By Su Wei

Three Chinese non-government organizations made a joint declaration Wednesday condemning the ruling by a Tokyo local court rejecting a damages claim by so-called comfort women for abuses suffered by them during the Japanese invasion of China.

The China National Lawyer's Association, the China National Women's Association, and the China Human Rights Development Funding Association believe that the decision is totally wrong and they support the Chinese comfort women to lodge a further appeal. It is the first time that these NGOs have made a public declaration in support of the claim against the Japanese government.

On May 30th, a Tokyo local court rejected the appeal lodged by four Chinese women from Meng County, Shanxi Province, for their claim against the Japanese government. The court said that individuals have no right to make a claim against a country.

Between 1942 and 1944, Japanese soldiers seized the four Chinese women, took them to their guard station and gang-raped them. On August 7, 1995, the four women authorized their Japanese lawyers to file a lawsuit requiring the Japanese government to make a formal apology and pay each woman 20 million Yen in damages. During the almost six-year trial, with the help of Chinese lawyers, the Japanese lawyers provided a large amount of compelling evidence in relation to the crimes committed by the Japanese invaders.

The NGOs point out that the court's ruling against the women shows that the Japanese judiciary is flagrantly violating the law, showing contempt for the victims and disdain for human rights. The issue of Comfort Women has long been one of the unresolved issues between China and Japan.

Diplomats from South Pacific Visit Liao Cheng City



Diplomats from three South Pacific Island countries meet with heads of Liao Cheng Teachers University.

Photo by Xia Lei

By Xia Lei

From June 15 to 17, some diplomats of foreign missions in China visited Liao Cheng Teachers University in Shandong Province.

Lo Chi Wai, the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Vanuatu to China and his wife, Barney Rongap, the Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to China, and Luke V. Ratuva, the Ambassador of Republic of Fiji Islands to China and his wife visited Liao Cheng Teachers University.

During their visit, they discussed the possibility of cooperation with the heads of the university. All of them believe that China

and the three counties are developing countries and have much in common in culture and education.

Liao Cheng Teachers University is developing fast toward the goal of an open, international and comprehensive university. And the University of South Pacific is a regional and international university in the South Pacific Region. Therefore, both sides are looking into the possibilities of co-research work and exchange of teachers and students.

During their stay at Liao Cheng, they also visited the Shandong Erjiao Company, a company producing traditional Chinese medicine for the health of blood.

Beijing Today published its first issue on May 11, 2001. Beijing's first local English language newspaper, it is run by Beijing Youth Daily and comes out every Friday. Beijing Today will show you a dynamic city with its ancient and yet modern flavor.

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i-Cable's Acquisition of NetEase off

By Yang Xiao

Hong Kong's i-Cable Communications Ltd. said Monday it had broken off talks to buy Chinese Internet portal NetEase.com, according to a source close to the decision citing concerns that a probe into possible misreporting of advertising revenue could spark messy litigation.

i-Cable, a cable television and broadband Internet company, said in a statement it had terminated discussions with NetEase and some of its shareholders, without giving a reason, saying it would not proceed with the acquisition "for the time being".

A source involved with the buy-out discussions said "Pricing was not a problem," however i-Cable was concerned about "potential shareholder litigation" in light of the recent internal investigations by NetEase.

He declined to divulge the amount under discussion but some newspapers have speculated it was around \$85 million. Meanwhile a NetEase spokesperson said the company was not aware of any pending legal action in connection with its internal probe.

NetEase announced last week it had widened an internal investigation into possible misreporting of ad contracts to include figures from the 2000 financial year.

On June 11 NetEase reported that its CEO, King Lai and COO Susan Chen had stepped down amid the widened internal investigation. Lai also resigned from NetEase's board. The probe could lead to reduced revenue and accounts receivable, affecting the company's year-end net assets and buyout



Former CEO King Lai



Former COO Susan Chen



Charts for the two companies in the NASDAQ show news of the acquisition was good for NetEase (yellow) and bad for i-Cable (green), the announcement several days later that the acquisition was off, saw i-Cable fortunes rising again, while NetEase went into decline.

Photos by Jia Ting

valuation, analysts say. The misreporting of advertising revenue could be well in excess of the 1 million dollars that has been widely estimated.

NetEase hired Goldman Sachs to find a buyer several months ago. Spokespersons for Goldman Sachs and for Credit Suisse First Boston, which is advising i-Cable, declined to comment on the situation.

30-years-old Ding Lei, the founder & CEO & COO of NetEase.com was one of the richest dotcomer in China, with a personal value of \$270 million on IPO day. Will his trademark smile remain?

NetEase financial statements on 4th quarter 2000

Based on prior audited financial statements, NetEase reported in March that it had \$86 million cash as of December 31 2000, or \$2.86 per share, meaning its shares – which have skidded as low as \$1 – have traded far below its cash level.

The Web advertising-reliant company posted a fourth quarter net loss of \$5.7 million, compared with a third quarter loss of \$5.04 million.

Revenue for the fourth quarter totaled \$3.18 million, up 24.6 percent from third quarter revenue of \$2.55 million. Former CEO King Lai told Reuters that at that time, the company's monthly cash burn rate had stabilized at \$2.4 million.

Lai had also forecast that the company would reach an operating profit by the second half of 2003. But the U.S. economic slowdown has damped Internet advertising spending and soured investor sentiment toward Internet stocks.



Reuters CEO Peter Job

Photo Provided by Reuters

Reuters Celebrates 150th Anniversary

By Liu Feng / Xia Lei

"Do you know Reuters?" Asked Peter Job, Chief Executive of Reuters, when he met with Chinese journalists last week.

Founded in 1851, Reuters has selected 24 countries and regions to celebrate its 150th anniversary. China is one of the countries selected.

For many people, the name Reuters is synonymous with the biggest news agency in the world. However, its scope of business is much wider than that. News reporting and media only accounts for 5% of the company's business. Reuters is the world's leading news and financial information organization. It is unrivalled in the scope, sophistication and amount of information that it supplies to banks, media and increasingly to other businesses and private individuals.

As Peter Job says, Reuters earns some 95% of its revenues from the financial markets. Nowadays, Reuters has offices in 204 cities in 100 countries, with a staff of about 18,000.

Reuters became a publicly listed company and was floated on the London Stock Exchange and New York's NASDAQ in 1984. By August 2000, it was the 19th most valuable company on the London Stock Exchange.

Reuters' brand value is based on independence, integrity, impartiality, speed and innovation. Its statutes prevent any shareholder from owning 15% or more shares in the company.

Reuters' Instinet is the world's biggest electronic stock trading company; it handles one third of the trading business on the NASDAQ and 40 other major markets.

Currently, Reuter's web site; www.reuters.com, attracts some 73 million "hits" every month.

When asked what was the key to Reuter's success, Peter Job said: "A good strategy for success should be sustainable and feasible. You should be the leader of the fashion, but should be practical."

Sinopec Gears up for International Competitions

By Li Jingli

After both China Petroleum & Chemical Corp. (Sinopec) and PetroChina Co. Ltd. consolidated their downstream businesses, i.e. gas stations last year, merger and acquisition activities emerged again in the oil industry. On June 12 Hong Kong listed Sinopec announced that it would buy oil and gas exploration company Sinopec National Star Petroleum from its mainland parent for 9.13 billion yuan.

Due to higher oil prices last year, Sinopec reported that its net profit for the whole year surged 3.06 times to 19 billion yuan, or 0.226 yuan per share. Chairman Li Yizhong estimated that this year National Star would bring an additional 7,500 million yuan or 3.6% to the group's profits.

National Star was founded in 1997, and its assets and employees are from Oil Geology and Marine Geology Bureaus of the Geology and Mineral Resources Ministry. In last year's reorganization of the oil and chemical industry, National star became part of Sinopec Group. By purchasing National Star, the country's fourth largest oil exploration company, Sinopec's upstream business will continue to expand.

After the deal, Sinopec's oil reserve will increase by 30%, and its gas production will grow by 68%. In addition, National Star, which belonged formerly to the relevant geology exploration government department, has great experience in oil exploration, with operational costs of 2 yuan per barrel, much lower than that of Sinopec. Therefore this acquisition will lower the production cost of Sinopec by 7%.

So far Sinopec is the only large state-owned company that is listed in Hong Kong, New York and London. This acquisition marks the start of overseas listed companies coming back for domestic listing. Sinopec has formally announced that it plans to issue A shares to raise dozens of billions of yuan. It says it will raise about 10 billion yuan by issuing up to 3 billion A shares to fund the purchase of National Star. Some analysts predict that if the deal is successful, Sinopec will make the biggest ever A share offering on the Shenzhen stock market.



Sinopec will face challenges from giant BP and Mobile after WTO.

Photo by Cui Hao

Recently, some large companies listed overseas showed that they wanted to undertake more fund-raising activities. As overseas markets become more competitive, and domestic capital markets keep growing, it makes good sense for overseas listed Chinese companies to come back for domestic listing. Since those companies have already been tested on the foreign capital market, they generally achieve better results. If they can list on the domestic market, then domestic investors can also share their profits. According to Wang Fenghua, an analyst of Aerospace Securities, Sinopec's big operations in the capital market directly reflect China's efforts to establish a flagship in the oil and chemical industries. A share offering by Sinopec will have a positive effect on listed company's profits in the oil and chemical industries, and on the chemical industry as a whole. In addition, the successful fund raising activities of this large company could also be the basis for accelerating the growth of the domestic capital market.

300 Shareholders Seek to Recoup 10 Million Losses

Civil Action against Stock Price Manipulators



Yorkpoint's Minority Shareholders saw their shares sky rocket, then plummet overnight. Lawyer Guo Feng (right) believes he will win the lawsuit, economist Li Yining thinks otherwise.

Photos by Chen Shuyi / Cui Hao

By Yang Xiao

By the end of June 12, over 300 minority shareholders of Yorkpoint Science & Technology, a Shenzhen listed company had registered with the Beijing Zhonglun Jintong Law Firm, in a joint action against stock price manipulators. These shareholders have been the victims of institutional price manipulations since 1998. They are preparing to sue the price riggers, who have secured huge gains for themselves but caused losses for the ordinary investors. The case, expected to be launched next month, is China's first civil lawsuit against stock price manipulation.

The average loss of the minority shareholders is 40,000 yuan. One person from Guangdong Province has lost 1 million yuan. Another, from Shenzhen, bought 2,400 shares in Yorkpoint at 95 yuan per share in February 2000. After a continuous fall in the stock's value, he

was forced to sell at 85 yuan, a loss of 36,000 yuan. "At that time the company's report said it had a scientific auto project with Tsinghua University. Now I realize it was a fake news story," he said.

Earlier in April four Guangdong investment companies were caught manipulating the price of Yorkpoint stocks between October 1998 and February 2000 by shifting the stocks within their own accounts. Yorkpoint itself may also be put on trial for joint liability and fake information disclosure during the period, though the final list of those being prosecuted has yet to be settled. The companies have not yet formally responded to the accusations.

In the group of shareholder clients two or three plaintiff representatives will be chosen. When all documentary preparation is done, the lawsuit will be formally submitted to the local court, possibly by the start of next month, said Guo Feng, the firm's lawyer in charge of the case.

The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) has already ordered the price riggers to hand over their illegal gains together with 449 million yuan (\$54 million) in fines to the State, "But that was just a sort of administrative punishment, which will not make up for the losses of innocent investors," said Guo. Asking for civil compensation is the most efficient way for them to recover their losses, he said.

He admitted that winning the case will not be easy. The biggest obstacle stems from the fact that the Securities Law does not carry terms of civil compensation in case of irregularities or misconduct on the part of listed companies, fund managers and brokerages, analysts said. Therefore, the plaintiff can only sue for compensation for breach of civil rights, which needs more concrete proof. Guo said their main task now was to have the court register their claim. And then things will be easy. "We have

the proof. The CSRC's punishment is one of the most important proofs."

In many cases, securities rule breakers face only administrative punishment, including fines that should be paid to the State, said Li Yining, director of the Financial and Economic Committee of the National People's Congress, China's highest legislature.

But legislators are considering adding terms of civil compensation to the drafted Investment Fund Law. They are also expected to revise the Securities Law and Corporate Law to clarify investor rights to sue for compensation.

Li does not believe the case can be won. He points out that the laws as they currently stand will not support the lawsuit, and says all shareholders must face market risks. Others say the four price riggers now have no money for compensation, since they have already transferred or concealed their assets.

Beijing Sets New Areas for Foreign Capital

Hi-tech, infrastructure, upgrading of poor housing and modern trade services are the four new priorities for FDI, which has become an important part of the city's economy



Dr. Chen Gang, Deputy Director of Beijing Municipal Foreign Economic and Trade Commission.

Photo by Jia Kecheng

By Zhao Hongyi

The Beijing Municipal Government lists four new priorities for foreign direct investment (FDI) to enter, according to Dr. Cheng Gang, deputy director of the Beijing Municipal Foreign Economic & Trade Commission.

"With China entering into the World Trade Organization(WTO), Beijing is in a position to upgrade its industries and perfect the environment for foreign investment,"

said Mr. Chen. "To be more specific, the four priorities are hi-tech industry, infrastructure industry, upgrading of poor housing and modern trade services."

Mr. Cheng made the remarks at a seminar entitled "The Future of Foreign Investment in China" in Beijing, on June 19.

According to Mr. Chen, the hi-tech industry is at the top of the agenda and includes information technology (IT), new materials, optical & electronic facilities, new medicines and chemicals, environment protection & regeneration technologies and products.

The infrastructure industry includes municipal public utilities like underground, transportation facilities, electricity and even running water supplies.

The commercial revenues for poor housing upgrading in downtown Beijing used to be low and of little interest to real estates developers.

Over the past two decades, the service industry in Beijing, the so called third indus-

try, has seen a rapid development and counts 58% of the whole GDP of the city. The service industry covers a wide range of sectors including financial services, insurance, medical care, education, conferences, tourism and so on.

"Beijing has many reasons to absorb more FDI," explained Chen, "First of all, China is now entering the WTO. Beijing has to speed up its economic growth to better prepare for the challenges and opportunities to be brought. Secondly, Beijing has experienced a fast development in recent years, which gives us a concrete base to further open to foreign investment. Thirdly, Beijing is bidding to host the 2008 Olympic Games. No matter whether we succeed in the bid or not, we have the determination to build Beijing into a new international city."

"In addition, foreign investment is one of the major factors driving the economic growth of the city. According to the latest statistics, foreign invested enterprises (FIEs)

contributed over 50% of the total GDP of the city last year," said Mr. Chen.

By the end of May this year, the total contracted foreign investment in the city amounted to US\$33.1 billion of which the actual input is US\$22.2 billion. The total number of contracted FIEs is 16,000 of which of 7,000 have been in operation.

In addition, by the end of 2000, FIEs contributed nearly to 50% the total output of the city's industry, 62% of the city's exports and 69.7% of its imports.

The seminar was co-sponsored by Beijing Foreign Investment Services Center, Beijing International Investment Promotion Council and Beijing Association of Enterprises with Foreign Investment. The purpose of the seminar was to introduce possible prospects of economic development in Beijing after China enters WTO. More than 60 representatives from embassies, multinationals and media attended.

China to Regulate Venture Capital and Update Catalogue for FDI

By Zhao Hongyi

To better regulate the operation of venture capital, China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic

Cooperation (MOFTEC), together with other central governmental authorities, has been in the process of drafting a "Temporary Regulations on the Operation and Management of Venture Capital". The new Regulations will be deliberated early July, according to Mr. Zhang Xunhai, deputy director of the Foreign Investment Department of MOFTEC.

Also, as stipulated by Mr. Zhang, a draft of law on funds management is under discussion in the National People's Congress.

In addition, MOFTEC will release its revised catalogue for foreign investment in the next 2-3 months. The revised Catalogue will reduce the former four categories of encouraged, permitted, restricted and prohibited to three, namely encouraged, permitted and restricted. Currently, MOFTEC is still in the discussion with the State Development Planning Commission (SDPC) and State Economic and Trade Commission (SETC).

Mr. Zhang made the remarks at the seminar of "The Future of Foreign Investment in China", on June 19, 2001.

Due to the sensitiveness and other factors, Mr. Zhang declined to give any more details on the up coming regulations and catalogue.

Sewage Disposal Offers Big Opportunities

China needs to build more than 1,000 sewage treatment plants, which will provide a market of nearly 50 billion U.S. dollars for domestic and foreign investors, according to a Chinese environmentalist.

Wen Yibo, CEO of Beijing Sound Group, the country's leading environment-related enterprise, said that after being changed from a government burden to a potential profit-maker, sewage treatment is now becoming an "attractive cake".

His company signed contracts with eight Chinese cities recently in Beijing to build sewage treatment plants in these cities based on the BOT (build-operate-transfer) pattern.

"Through being authorized to collect sewage treatment fees from those sewage producers, we will be able to make back all our investments in ten years and will make considerable profits in the remaining 15 years," Wen said.

According to BOT pattern, investors of sewage plants will be given 25 years of operation rights before the plants transferred to local governments.

Last year, Sound Group signed a contract with the municipal government of Beijing to build two sewage treatment plants in accordance with the BOT pattern.

"This time the participation of eight other cities shows that this plan has been accepted and supported by more and more people," Wen said.

"The bright prospects of the sewage treatment sector in China has attracted many international investors, and some of them have showed their sincerity to join us," Wen said.

According to sources from the Ministry of Construction, only 31 to 34 percent of urban sewage is being disposed at present.

"We plan to increase the figure to 60 percent at least by the end of the year 2010," the ministry said.

(Xinhua)

Mixed Reactions to China Mobile Corporate Bonds

Low interest rates, long term refund and tax on interest result in investor ambivalence, but underwriter remains optimistic

By Li Jingli

China Mobile Communications Corp. made a corporate bond public issuance on June 18, but due to the ten-year term and the unclear prospects of China Mobile, the release failed to generate the expected enthusiasm among individual buyers, according to a report in the Beijing Youth Daily.

The bonds will be sold over 15 working days (from June 18 to July 6). The minimum amount for subscription will be 1,000 yuan and purchases should be made in multiples of 1,000 yuan.

"The interest on the bond is the reason for the lukewarm response from investors," says Yu Jia, an analyst with Changjiang Securities. "Usually, investors prefer corporate bonds of three years rather than ten years. The most critical issue now is whether the China Mobile bond can be listed on the stock market after the 15 days of issuing."

China Mobile is the first company to issue its bond under a

floating interest rate, a new policy adopted by China Securities Regulatory Committee (CSRC). The interest on the five billion yuan, ten-year bonds will adjusted and paid annually. The interest rate on the bonds carries a 1.75 basis point premium above the benchmark one-year bank deposit rate, which is currently at 2.25%. Therefore, for the first year, its annual interest rate is around 4 percent.

It is rumored in the market that the central government will make another state bond issue with an interest rate of 4.8 percent, a little higher than that of China Mobile's.

In addition, the national taxation authority announced recently that tax will be levied on income from bond investments, a strong disincentive for investors to buy the newly released China Mobile bonds. All these factors caused the silence in the market towards China Mobile bonds.

However, Huang Chaohui, vice-general manager of China International Financing, the major underwriter for the China Mobile

bond, explains that the major buyers of China Mobile bonds are institutional investors who have already booked 4.2 billion yuan or 80% of the whole 5 billion yuan issuance. The remaining 818.55 million yuan were up to the market for small and medium sized individual investors.

"We sold 200 million yuan in the first day, which is quite significant," said Huang.

Regarding to concerns by individual investors on the ten year term of the bond, Huang explained that China Mobile has been graded BBB by S&P, one of the world's most authoritative credit rating agencies, the highest rating among all Chinese enterprise bonds.

"Besides, the floating interest rate, in fact, always secures a higher rate than the bank deposit rate for the same period of time and guarantees a higher rate of return for investors," said Mr. Huang.

"Preparation for the listing of the bond is quite well under way," added Deng Hao, operations manager for the whole issuing process.

Huarong Selling Its Purses to International Buyers

The purpose is to attract international financial institutions to participate in China's non-performing liabilities

By Zhao Hongyi

On June 12th, China Huarong Asset Management Corporation (CHAMC, www.chamc.com.cn) started its first international "road show" in USA and UK to search for new foreign buyers for its non-performing liabilities under management. It is the first time for a Chinese company to display and recommend non-performing financial liabilities (NPL) and introduce national policies in this regard.

Led by Mr. Yang Kaisheng, President of Huarong, the "road show" covers world financial centers like London, New York, Washington and Los Angeles. It also aims to introduce Huarong's business operation, asset portfolio for public bidding and commit to the international investment community for their participation in China's NPL resolution. Over 20 billion yuan assets are for potential foreign buyers.

"It is a new method. And we are quite confident that the 'road show' will reach the expectation we set," said an official from Huarong who declined to be named.

Last month, Huarong displayed more than 100 projects at the financial assets trading



China Huarong is doing its best restructuring the bad assets under its management.

Photo by Zhuang Jian

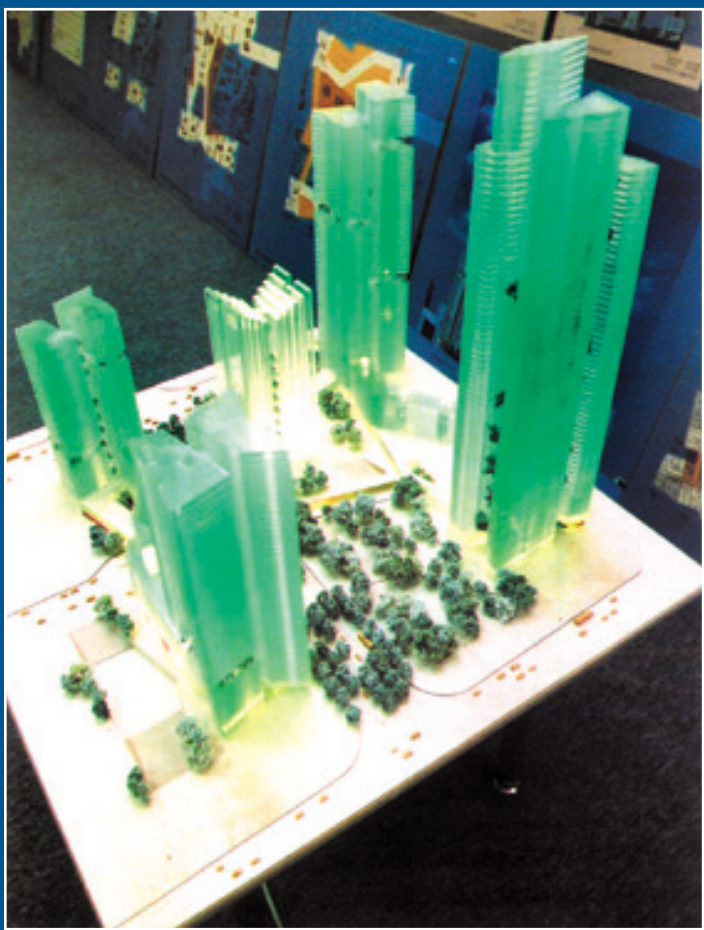
fair of the third China Beijing New Hi-Tech Industry International Week last month, which attracted great attention.

China Huarong Asset Management Corporation is a 100% state-owned financial enterprise with independent legal status. With an injection of 10 billion yuan by the Ministry of Finance, the Corporation covers financial business including purchase, management, and disposal of the non-performing assets transferred from Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, which

amounts to 407.7 billion yuan claim of debts.

By the end of last year, it disposed 7.858 billion yuan NPL and received a capital return of 3.2 billion yuan among which cash return amounted 2.064 billion yuan, which is quite significant, according to sources from the Corporation.

The "road show" is initialized and arranged by Ernst & Young, one of the world's leading professional service organizations. It will last till the 25th of this month.



The planned Fortune Plaza occupies a land area of 9.21 ha. with an architecture square measure of 700, 000 sq. m. (500, 000 ground and 200, 000 underground). Estimated height is 280 meters. Estimated total investment is RMB 60 billion.

Photo by Chen Shuyi

German GMP design chosen for Fortune Plaza

By Jian Rong

Though the overall layout program for the Beijing CBD has not yet been disclosed, the Fortune Plaza, fully invested by H. K. I Development, has already chosen a design by GMP from Germany. Last Tuesday at factory NO. 3501, where the Fortune Plaza is to be built, H. K. I directors made the final decision choosing the design of GMP against that of SOM, U.S. The design was then reported to the Beijing Municipal Construction Planning Commission, from whom a final examination and approval is expected.

The four candidate designs for the Plaza emerged after two rounds of world-wide evaluation in March and April, and GMP and SOM were eventually invited to complete comprehensive design works. As H. K. I explained, GMP was chosen for the foresight of its design concepts in dynamic traffic organization, ecological concerns and personalization in interior space arrangements. The investor appreciated the winner's design for its "more logical design and functions and stronger feasibility".

According to Mr. Barry John Ball, H. K. I's chief architect from UK, the buildings at the Fortune Plaza can be best described as "open, mobile and congregate". "Open" means that for the neighboring areas, the Plaza is not enclosed within itself. An open square sits amongst five individual buildings and a smaller lower square is located to the south that can easily become an outdoor theatre with a roof of membrane structure. It is "mobile" because within itself, all pedestrians and vehicles find their own route, linking CCTV to its new eastern site with an overhead corridor for people crossing the East 3rd Ring Road. Dynamic traffic organization integrates the Plaza with the whole CBD area. "Congregate" indicates that the developer wants to make sure that people like to stay in the Plaza and they are in the right mood to stroll and enjoy ..."

According to the overall plan, the proportion of residence buildings in the core CBD area cannot exceed 25%, which leaves office buildings in the leading role. The Fortune Plaza is the first new office building in the CBD area. It adjoins Jingguang Center to the North, Kerry Center to the South and the new site of CCTV to the East, separated by East 3rd Ring Road. Five main buildings are planned to be completed in three phases over 8 years, with the 1st phase including two apartment buildings at the south, the 2nd phase including an office building 280m high at the north-east corner and a hotel in the center, and the 3rd phase including a building at the north-west corner whose function still remains undecided.

First-Aid Training Saves Lives

By Su Wei

A staff member of a joint venture in Beijing was injured in the office. His Chinese colleagues tried to give assistance but were at a loss as to what to do. Fortunately for the injured man, the head of the company was on hand, and was able to bind up the wound.

It sounds a little strange that a foreigner was the only person able to deliver assistance in such an emergency. However most Chinese people have neglected first-aid training programs. To date, only 10,000 local people in Beijing have qualified for the first-aid certificate, according to Mr. Sun, the Vice Director of the Beijing Red Cross Society's First-Aid Training Program.

First-aid training programs are now very common in devel-

oped countries. Holding such a certificate is a distinct advantage when seeking employment in many large companies. The percentage of staff holding first-aid certificates in such companies is at least 20% in the developed countries. In Beijing, some large international companies have carried out the program and all employees are required to take part in the training.

However, the importance of first-aid training is still not well understood in Beijing. According to a recent survey, among the total number of sudden deaths, 87.7% happened outside hospitals, due to the lack of on the spot first aid, 35-40% of those that died would have survived if effective first aid had been provided on the spot.



British diplomat, Ms. Kate Westgarth plays the role of "drug trafficker" in the mock trial. Photo by Li Yanming

British Drug Trafficking "Trial" Heard in Beijing

By Su Nan

A two-day Sino-UK mock trial and seminar on trial and pre-trial procedures was held at the China World Hotel on June 18 and 19.

The mock trial and seminar involved all key Chinese agencies involved in the criminal justice process; police, prosecutors, lawyers, judges and legislators, as well as leading academics.

The British experts taking part included the Rt. Hon. Sir Philip Otton, Robert Seabrook QC, both of whom have extensive experience of the Chinese judicial system.

The judge, lawyers, defendant, and bailiffs were British, while the 12 members of the jury were from Beijing Law circles, the ministry of Public Security, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and the supreme People's Court of China, according to Yan Junxing, deputy director of the Judicial Research Institute of the Ministry of Justice. Yan explained that the drug trafficking offence had been used as the subject of the mock trial because drug trafficking is an important topic that has aroused concern all over the world. In recent years, the number of drug trafficking offences in China has increased, therefore, the experience of the mock trial is a useful reference, he said.

The mock trial and seminar were a part of the "Celebration of Sino-British Legal Exchange" programme, which is conducted by the Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy together with Ministry of Justice and the Great Britain-China Center.

Summer Vacation Military Training New Fashion

By Su Nan

With the summer vacation drawing near, military training for students appears to be a more and more popular trend in Beijing. Last Sunday morning, many students and their parents called or visited the Children's Military School of China to make enquiries and register for the military training. Normally, during summer vacation, students will relax and participate in various activities, so why are some parents sending their kids to go camping and follow a military routine?

Cao Kai and his wife have come to register their 12-year-old daughter. "I don't like to see my daughter always stay at home, she needs to enjoy the outside world." The mother said, "she never goes outside to play by herself, because she is timid. I hope she can have some physical exercise and learn to bear some hardships."

An increasing number of parents in Beijing think this way. According to vice-dean of the Children's Military School of China, Liu Wenwei, every day, more than thirty parents call them to register their children.

Zhao Yinsu, a chubby 11-year-old boy, has come with his parents to register for the training. "We think that this training may help our kid build up both his physical strength and willpower, and



Photo by Chen Bai

we want him to join some collective activities, since he is an only child." Said his dad. Zhao Yinsu seems to like the idea of this kind of training. When his mom asked him whether he wanted to take the 5-day or the 10-day training course, he said at once, "of course the 10-day course, otherwise I'll have only just got to know my new friends, and it will be time to come back." When the assistant told him that there is no ice

cream and no TV, he said, "I just want to eat some bread, play with some new friends and loose some weight. That's all!"

Those who have participated in the training are not only from Beijing, but also from Inner Mongolia, Hong Kong, as well as Singapore, and the U.S. An American citizen of Chinese origin, Tang Liang sent her 13 and 15 year-old daughters to take the course. She

Said, "My daughters have too much of a sense of superiority and they complain too much. I hope they can experience everything in their life, not only the bright side, but also hard and plain living. Also, I sent them to join a group of similar aged but unfamiliar kids in order to boost their ability to interact with people."

The two sisters, Lauren and Emily Spear, dressed up in military uniforms on the second day of their training camp, told the reporter that they came out of curiosity and also in the hope of losing weight. However, after one day, they said they were not used to this type of training, and couldn't understand why people were standing under the hot sun and doing nothing for almost an hour. Lauren thought it was a hard and tough training for them. Liu Wenwei says some kids might have such responses towards this type of training. But that's what their parents want them experience.

Commenting on the current trend of holiday military training, Sun Yunxiao from the Children's Research Center of China, said more and more families tend to stress the healthy development of their children's personality. This is a mature approach to education. Many families believe now that sending kids to participate in collective activities is more important and meaningful than demanding they get high marks at school.

Earthworms, Future Environmental Angels?

By Su Wei

The staff of the China Children's Center have just distributed a full box of earthworms to five families, who are to carry out an experiment named 'domestic garbage disposal by earthworms'. The center says if the experiment is a success, the earthworms will be introduced to a further 100 families to enhance the disposal of domestic garbage.

Few people have considered that earthworms are relevant to garbage. In Haidian Science and Sanitation Institute, the 5 cm long earthworms are put into a box filled up with the food leftovers and various other household refuse. According to the staff, the earthworms are able to devour and decompose all the garbage, including the leftovers, odd bits of cloth, toilet paper, as well as harmful heavy metal. It has been calculated that one ton of earthworms are capable of digesting more than one ton of garbage.

At present, landfill disposal and incineration of refuse are the most common methods of garbage disposal. However, landfill is both costly and wasteful of land resources, while the incineration of refuse is also costly and a potentially dangerous source of air pollution.

Despite the advantages, it will take a long time for earthworms to take over as the preferred method of garbage disposal, mainly because of the lack of the enterprises specialized in dealing with earthworms and the further processing of the earthworms.



Photo by Chen Shuyi

The latest housing exhibition has intensified interest in the real estate market in Beijing. Saleswomen in camouflage chic are distributing brochures at the World Trade Center.

A 12-day Athletic and English camp during the summer vacation. Sports and fitness will be the theme for the whole period. Time to register: From June 1 to July 20

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Teenagers Learn to Fly

Four students from Beijing Xicheng Experimental Senior Middle School went to Henan Province at weekends to learn how to fly a plane. Dreaming not only of flying in the sky, but also learning to face new challenges, Jin Yuchuan, in the glider, has found a new way to broaden his horizons.

Photo by Chen Bai



Kindhearted "Laowai", Thank you very much

Three foreigners attempt to rescue drowning man

By Su Wei

"Please try to find the three kind hearted 'Laowai', I really want to thank them in person." Tang Zhongfu called correspondents from the Beijing Evening Post, begging them to help him find the three foreigners who jumped into a reservoir in an effort to save his drowning brother-in-law. Tang says it is of the utmost importance after he finishes arranging his brother-in-law's funeral affairs.

On June 9th, Tang and his brother-in-law, Zhang Liansheng were on the way to the Ming Tombs. When they passed the Ming Tombs Reservoir, Zhang suggested they go swimming in the reservoir. Zhang swam several meters, then something went wrong, and he started to sink. At that moment, Tang, who was still on bank, tried to use a stick to help Zhang, but it was too short and Tang was also in danger of

drowning. There were several bystanders, but none were able to swim. Tang ran for help, shouting loudly. At that moment several foreigners came out of a cabin. Upon hearing that someone was drowning, one of them asked Tang to take them to the spot. However, when they got to the bank of the reservoir, there was no sign of Zhang. The first three foreigners jumped into the water without hesitation, not even pausing to take off their clothes or shoes. Very quickly Zhang was pulled from the deep water and the three then tried to resuscitate him with artificial respiration. However it was too late to save him.

Tang said, "I was so upset at the time that I was not able to offer my sincere thanks to them. I even cannot remember what they look like. Although my brother-in-law could not be saved, I am deeply impressed by the actions of the three foreigners and grateful for their brave deeds!"



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Weekly Survey

90% Sudden Death

Ninety percent of sudden deaths are related to heart and lung diseases, with the most common cause coronary heart diseases, according to the first survey on sudden death causes by the Cardio-Vascular Disease Research Institute, Hong Kong University.

By definition, sudden death means a person dying within an hour without any previous warning symptoms. The survey also discovered men die suddenly seven times more often than women.

Seventy percent of the deaths do not result from chronic (long-term) diseases. Those chronic diseases that do lead to sudden death include angina and asthma. These diseases are often overlooked. Cigarette smoking, poor dietary habits and family hereditary diseases all may contribute to the causes of sudden death.

372 Vs 275 Minutes per Month

A study of mobile phone users reveals that the average time spent making calls on mobile phones is 372 minutes per month for men, and 275 minutes per month for women. Applying the standard of fee payments in China, the monthly cost for men is 1488 yuan and 1000 yuan for women.

The investigation also revealed that women generally make mobile phone calls to talk about personal affairs, while men mostly talk about business matters.

Nothing Ventured Nothing Gained

China has more than 10 billion yuan in planned venture capital commitments, of which Beijing's share is a third. But that 10 billion yuan is little better than a bubble at the moment.

But Beijing's actual venture capital is 500 million yuan. From this, one can estimate China only has a total 1.2 billion yuan of actual venture capital.

(Wei Feng)

By Wei Feng

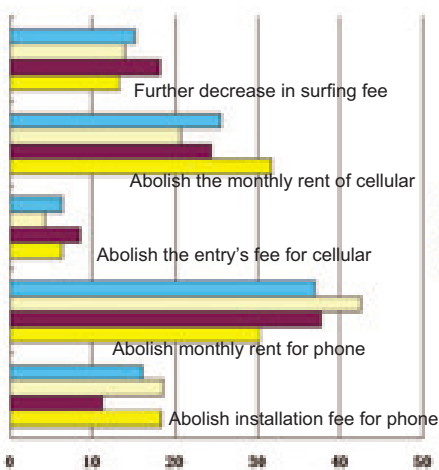
It's now three months since China Telecom adjusted its telecom fees, and although customers have resigned themselves to the new pricing structure, they still have a lot to say about both the telecom fee adjustments and telecom reform in general.

Beijing Youth Daily and Beijing Today conducted a survey on the issue recently in the three cities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

The main findings and statistics are as follows:

Questioned about the areas in urgent need of reform by China Telecom, 65% called for the abolition of monthly rents and fees for connecting telephones. 61% agreed that fee accounts should be open and transparent. 57% agreed that there was a need to break the monopoly and introduce market competition, and 51% said China Telecom should convene consultation conferences to listen to consumers' opinions.

Monthly rents of cellular & phone are to be abolished



Telecom Reform

Where China Telecom Goes to Get its God Satisfied?

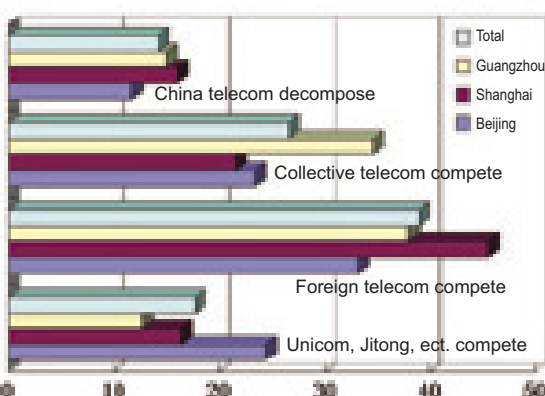
37% and 25% responded respectively that China Telecom should firstly take measures to abolish monthly rents for fixed phones and cancel the monthly fees for cellular phones.

Judged by a 5-point system to evaluate the degrees of customers' satisfaction (1 for most dissatisfied and 5 for most satisfied), the rate is 4.16 on average over "free of charge on setting on the second fixed phones". However, the lowest satisfaction of the survey is "the adjustment of local phones",

and the rate is only 2.39.

On the question of breaking the monopoly of China Telecom, 39% said that the main thing was to permit foreign telecom corporations into China's telecom industry. 27% said the key was to allow powerful domestic collectively and privately owned

Different opinions towards the breakup of China telecom Monopoly



enterprises to compete in the telecom field.

87% of those surveyed learned of the new telecom fee adjustments through reports in newspapers, magazines and other traditional media. 38% got to know this from the on-line news of the Internet.

Agreements on the "disputations" over the fee adjustment



As we have pointed out, the fee adjustments by China Telecom have caused considerable controversy. The survey focused on some popular statements, asking respondents to rate their agreement or disagreement according to the 5-point system.

To the statement "while appearing to have declined, fees have actually risen, because people make more local calls than long-distance calls", the agreement rate was 4.21. But the number agreeing was much higher in Beijing and Guangzhou than in Shang-

hai.

To the statement "telecom fees should be charged by the second so as to maintain the rights of the users," respondents in the three cities agreed with a rate of 3.63.

To the statement "China Telecom hasn't met real competitors so its reform is very slow", the agreement reached 4.24.

To "the adjustment of the fee plan is no more than a price decline in appearance but in fact an increase, because people make more

local calls instead of long-distance ones", the surveyed who agreed 4.08, and no much difference in the three.

The attitudes towards the reform of China Telecom

Not only the common customers but also the specialists have many times suggested instructive measures for China Telecom to carry out, but, for some reasons, they are hardly to be implemented. Just because of this, one part of the survey was centered to four particular measures concerned about by most customers.

From the survey, more than half agreed on the following four items that must be "most urgently" improved or reformed by China Telecom. 57.1% said the "most urgent" thing China Telecom has to do is "to break the monopoly and introduce the market competition"; 51.1% said it is "to convene consultation conferences to listen to the opinions of consumers"; 61.1% responded "the fee accounts should be open and transparent", and 65.0% responded "to cancel the monthly rents and the fees of setting up a phone as well". Just to most people's expectation, the surveyed showed no disagreements on the four items among the three cities, for such reform measures reflected most people's will.

Opinion on telecom fee adjustment

To the most adjusted fee items by China Telecom, "abolishing the monthly rents for fixed and cellular phones" is considered No.1.

Of the six items for which fees were adjusted, people were most satisfied with the abolition of fees for installing a second telephone (4.16), while they were most dissatisfied with the rise in fees for local calls (2.39).

In regard to the other four items, such as the reduction of installation fees for the first phone, reduction of connection fees for cellular phones, reduction of Internet fees, and the reduction of the long-distance call charges, the degree of satisfaction was 3.63, 3.66, 3.22, and 3.08 respectively.

Picture by Lao Du Studio
Table by Tian Ye

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May 29, 2001, is a day that will be remembered by thousands of Beijingers engaging in futures trading. This was the day that Cao Yufei, the futures fraudster who brought so much pain and loss to so many, was executed in Beijing. Three years earlier, Cao Yufei, then a consultant with Xinguoda Futures defrauded more than 500 million yuan from over 4,000 futures clients of the company and absconded with nearly 200 million yuan and \$280,000.



Photos by Zhang Jing



Cao Yufei



Gong Congying



Gao Zhenyu

Fraud Crocodile Sheds His Last Tear

Xinguoda Futures Case

After examination and approval of the Supreme Court, the principal criminal of one huge financial swindling case, Cao Yufei, was executed on May 29, 2001 in Beijing.

Cao Yufei, the President of Beijing New East Asia Investment Consulting Co., Ltd, set up or covertly purchased three companies including the Beijing Office of Shangdong Zhonghui Futures Co., Ltd from June 1997 to July 1998. In collusion with others, he defrauded about 500 million yuan from more than 4,100 clients. Except the 170 million yuan he defrayed as high interest to clients, he squandered some of the illicit money and transferred a large sum abroad. After the case, there was still 280 million yuan that could not be recovered.

(Xinhua)

By Li Shouen

From Fugitive to Billionaire

Cao Yufei, already wanted for futures fraud in Taiwan, changed his name to Ni Wenliang, and masquerading as the son of National Army General Ni Jie, acted the role of a consultant in three futures companies of Shanghai, Shandong and Beijing successively.

In 1989, sought by the Taiwan police for futures fraud, Cao Yufei fled to America. He bought a passport of Belize in the United States, changing his name to Ni Wenliang, and arrived in the Chinese mainland via Hongkong as a tourist in 1994.

In December 1996, he registered the New East Asia Investment Consulting Co. in Beijing's eastern suburbs. He appointed himself as the legal representative and general manager of the company and employed 28-year-old Gong Congying as his finance superintendent, thus taking his first step of deception in the mainland by undertaking illegal futures trading.

When his "New East Asia" attracted the attention of Beijing's financial supervision departments for violating the rules of trading, he avoided trouble by shutting down the company.

But his game was not yet over, he next moved to Chaoyang District, Beijing, and put up another sign, namely Beijing Office, Shangdong Zhonghui Futures Co. Again, he didn't obtain its ratification from the Securities Supervision Department.

Under the cloak of Shangdong Zhonghui, Ni Wenliang drew in a great many clients. Only three months after its establishment, Shangdong Zhonghui had more than one thousand clients on its books and drew on cash deposits of

some 20 million yuan.

In 1997, during an auditing, the Securities Supervision Department found that the Beijing Office of Shangdong Zhonghui was an illegal body and charged it to stop trading and clear out all its clients immediately.

For a time, it seemed Ni Wenliang had run out of luck, but then he heard some news that started him scheming again. He was told that there was a futures trading company for sale, called Xinguoda Futures.

He knew well that his current status precluded the possibility of his purchasing the company himself, for he didn't even possess the basic qualifications. However, one of his old clients came to mind, Guo Lianzhang, the general manager of Yanxing Beijing Integrating Industry Co.

With a legal cloak he had never had the advantage of before, Ni Wenliang immediately upgraded his manipulating activities. After the closing down of Zhonghui Beijing, all its former clients were transferred to Xinguoda. More clients were solicited, and the number expanded rapidly from 1,000 to more than 4,000. Xinguoda had now absorbed cash deposits of over 500 million yuan. This was the largest prey he had ever hunted for.

Coming to the Light

A fox has more than one lair, and so did Ni Wenliang. In 1997, he applied for an American passport in the name of Lin Qiang. From that time, he began to transfer the company's money to banks in other countries. One day in June 1998, after the futures market had closed, Ni Wenliang, in collusion with other two members of Xinguoda, secretly transferred nearly 20 million yuan and \$280,000 in cash to an apartment and then to another hiding place in Sanyuanqiao

the following night.

On July 31, 1998, Gong Congying, the finance superintendent reported there was not enough money in their account to disburse the salaries and interest. The 500 million yuan in cash deposits, except for the portion he had defrayed by returning clients' principal and paying the high interest (about 170 million yuan), had been transferred abroad or squandered. His fraud exposed, he had no option but to run away with his two accomplices.

Despite being in such a precarious situation, they didn't give up the chance to indulge themselves in comforts. With two suitcases full of money, the three went to the Baijinhuan Bathing Center in Ni Wenliang's Mercedes Benz sports car. They even arranged for three girls from Xinguoda to keep them company at the bathing center. They stayed there for the whole night, and at 5 am the following morning, they gave each girl 100,000 yuan as bonus, discarded the Mercedes, called a taxi to the airport, and flew to Guangzhou.

Though Ni Wenliang was adept at scheming and calculating, the mainland police caught them after some twists and turns.

Although those who were cheated by Ni Wenliang received no financial compensation, his capture and subsequent trial and execution perhaps offered at least a sense of moral retribution. What goes around, comes around, as they say!

Once Tycoon, Now Convict of Death Penalty

Before his downfall, Ni Wenliang, or 'Michael' as his clients called him, was so famous among those futures clients that there was a saying that went, "Obey your wife's words, and follow in Michael's footsteps".

At the beginning of 1998,

the futures market was still in a downturn, but Xinguoda Futures, in which Ni Wenliang was the consultant, was crowded with clients.

It seemed an outstanding business compared with its two or three hundred other competitors in Beijing. It attracted more than 4,000 clients to invest in futures, and their invested capital ranged from 100,000 to more than 10,000,000 yuan.

The clients were promised a high profit return of 120 - 360 % per annum with no risks. His followers were crazy about him and his new theories of making millions.

Wherever Michael went, they poured their money. They shouted the slogan "Michael is here, Money is here too" and even "Long Live Michael". Michael was their God of Wealth.

But all of a sudden, the prosperous Xinguoda Futures was discarded, Ni Wenliang disappeared without bidding farewell, and worst of all, the capital of those futures clients, which was more than one hundred million yuan, was gone with him! This happened on the last trading day of July 1998.

At 5 am, September 3, 1998, Ni Wenliang was arrested in a hotel in Yunnan province after being on the run for more than one month.

On April 21, 2000, his true identity revealed, Cao Yufei, also "Ni Wenliang", also "Michael" was sentenced to death by the Beijing Second Intermediate People's Court.

On May 29, 2001, he was executed in Beijing. The crocodile had shed his last tear and could bite and devour no more.

Intigue of the Swindler

Ni Wenliang never ran short of followers, why? One important reason was that he was a "gifted orator and instigator". He knew very well the ordinary people's desire

to make money quickly. He had a series of theories about making fortunes. Whenever he canvassed his new ideas, his followers would echo him ardently.

Ni Wenliang told others that he was a successful businessman in Taiwan and that he didn't come to the mainland to make money, but to make a contribution to the country and the people. He portrayed himself as a patriot to win others' trust. Furthermore, in order to promote his successful image, he would often tell other people that he knew certain VIPs with connections to the government, and once he even invited some pop stars to give a concert for his staff and clients. All these charades made his followers firmly believe that by getting close to him, they were stepping into the upper circles of society.

Ni Wenliang had another irresistible strategy, his "Always Win, Never Lose" policy. He promised that if the clients won, the profits were theirs; if they lost, he would compensate them from the principal of the company. But of course, he advised his clients never to withdraw their own principal. By offering high interest rates to his clients, he inveigled them to not only invest more and more of their own money in his company, but also bring in their friends and relatives, with the dream of getting rich overnight.

Another of Ni Wenliang's famous slogans was "Your debts are your assets." He professed "Debts are equal to assets", and encouraged his clients to borrow money to invest in futures.

Didn't anyone ever question these dubious theories and activities? Certainly a few did, and got out just in time. But there have been so many victims in this case, that we have to cry out: there is no such thing as a free lunch!

Every Life Counts-- The Cat Grandmom



weather is doing, Ms. Yu goes to market to buy vegetables and picks up discarded fish guts as food for the cats. She feeds yolk and milk to some of the sick ones. Since she was a retired school doctor, when she gets maimed cats, she buys medicine and cures them herself. When she has an injection for any of them, she coaxes and pets them, like a mother to her child; To avoid being inundated with even more kittens, once she takes in a male cat, she sterilizes it. Yu Shiyong only has 700 yuan pension per month, and more than half of it is spent on her cats.

Some animal protection associations have promised to help Yu and her cats. With photos of Ms. Yu and the cats, one association held a charity performance in the name of protecting animals and supporting Ms. Yu's actions, receiving nearly 150,000 yuan in donations. Every one believed Ms. Yu would get a lot of financial help. But actually, contrary to everyone's expectations, Ms. Yu did not get anything, apart from more and more maimed cats arriving on her doorstep. Of course, some people would donate some money and food for cats, as well as some milk powder for Yu herself, though Yu would not actually drink it, but save it for her cats. It entails much more than just a caring heart, but a deep love for animals, a love for life itself from one living creature to another.

40 Cats and Their Future

Yu Shiyong is 73 now, she knows

she may not have many years left to look after her beloved cats. At present, she is looking for a place for her cats to live with other real cat lovers. "We are now planning to find a courtyard which is big enough for all my cats in Shun Yi, near Beijing, and we hope to donate some money to hire a professional person to take care of them. Some day, I may leave this world, since I have no children or husband, the only thing I worry about is my cats. I hope our plan will become reality so that I can die relieved." Yu talked about her death in a peaceful voice.

Animals' current living environment can only change if everybody learns to care for and cherish animals' lives. We know one person's strength is limited. Yu Shiyong's personal effort is far from enough. If any one would like to help Yu Shiyong, you can call her on (010)-66173634.

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① Several cat lovers are discussing how to name this little cat.

② "Babies, it is time for dinner."

③ This smart cat is watching on for Ms. Yu.

Photos by Zhuang Jian

By Zhao Xia

Yu Shiyong, 73, looks like any other Chinese grandmother, except for the fact that instead of grandchildren bouncing on her knees, you will find cats, 40 cats to be precise.

Unmarried, Yu lives with her sister in a courtyard house, occupying 20 square metres along with 40 abandoned cats. "I could not bear seeing any cat homeless, especially those with injuries, and I will devote the rest of my days to abandoned cats," Yu emphatically said.

Keeping a pet has become yet another fashion symbol for many families. People would do well to remember however that a pet is not just for Spring Festival, but requires a lifetime of care, even when sick. While some owners throw away an animal like a piece of rubbish when it no longer serves its purpose. "Besides human beings, any animal also has a right to live. We should cherish their lives," Yu said seriously.

Maimed Cats

Different from others, all the "pets" in Yu's home are abandoned cats: many were ill, or worse still, horribly maimed. The first maimed cat Yu adopted was a blind one.

That was three years ago. It was a summer evening around 10pm, a little boy knocked at Yu's door. He directed Yu to an area of brushwood where there was a cat huddled up, meowing miserably. Its pitiful mew reminded Yu of a patient desperately calling for help, and easily found a place for itself in this generous woman's heart. Although Yu already had 25 abandoned cats in her care, stretching her pension to its meager limits, her

deep-rooted faith "cherish every life" encouraged her to accept the cat without hesitation. After cleaning it up, she found its two eyes had been cut out. "Why? Why is a man so merciless? Why does man not cherish other beings? Animals also have a right to live!" Yu Shiyong passionately exclaimed, as if asking herself and the whole human race.

Yu has adopted nearly 20 maimed cats up to now: "Que Que" is the one with its two front legs missing; "Meng Meng" is the one with an inflamed left shoulder; "Da Mao" is the one with four shooting wounds; "Long Zi" is the one with half its tail crushed by a car."

Many families would like to keep pets, but most of them would only accept healthy ones and not consider lame animals. Without Yu's medical care and close attention, these lives would disappear from the world.

My First Cat

To adopt lame cats in such vast quantities, a person must deeply love and understand felines, but most importantly, must be merciful.

"I owned my first cat when I was 9," Yu Shiyong recalled. That was back in 1937. One day, Yu found a lovely little cat who had lost its way sitting in her garden. The little beast pranced all over the place, as if it was playing with something in its clumsy little paws. "I wondered what it was doing, so I quietly crept up to it. To my surprise, the little creature was bravely struggling with a half-meter snake!" Yu focused her mind back to that day, "Just at that moment, my love for animals spontaneously burst out." This brave little thing became Yu's first cat and made a deep impression on her. Unfortunately, it disappeared again, and Japan invaded China.

Yu lived in a small village in Shandong Province, near a railway line. Such a location made the village

strategically important, which encouraged the Japanese to bomb and try to take it. Everyone's life was in danger. At that time, a German missionary protected Yu and some lucky villagers. Although they had escaped from slaughter at the hands of the Japanese, villagers still had to face the local tyrants. Yu's family could not bear the strain any longer and fled to Beijing in 1943. From 21, Yu was a school doctor in Beijing Normal University until she retired in 1985. As she had neither the time nor the energy, Yu did not raise a second cat until she retired.

Lao Hei's Death

Cats have the same family consciousness as man and they cherish their own lives. This is Yu's constant faith.

One old female cat, called "Lao Hei", had lived for almost 20 years; she had one daughter, one son and one grandson. "Like human beings, cats have family consciousness," Yu said nodding, "when Lao Hei had her grandson, she took care of him in place of the baby's mother, just like Chinese old women. She would not allow any other cats too close to her grandson, revealing a protection instinct similar to that of a devoted grandmother to her grandchildren." When the kitten grew up, Lao Hei became old and reached the end of her life span. She was too old to move and could not eat normally. But she still struggled against time. "She stared at me everyday, I could see tears in her eyes and I knew she still had a lot to tell me, like an intimate friend. She did not want to die and leave her children alone," Yu Shiyong said, with tears in her eyes.

Time goes by day by day, and doesn't



stop for any one. Little by little, Lao Hei could not eat anything and almost could not open her eyes. At last, Yu arranged for her to be taken to the vet to be put down. Several days after Lao Hei's death, Yu could not eat or sleep, and she cried several times during that period. "I was lamenting a life," Yu said in a low voice.

Mothering 40 Cats

Compared with raising children, looking after 40 cats is still no easy undertaking: it needs a solid financial base and good supply of energy, especially when most of them are maimed and need medical care. "They are all like my children," Yu said with satisfying smile.

Twice a day, no matter what the



Piecing A Temple Together

By Miao Yajie

Dozens of Beijingers called the Temple of Emperors in the first few days following its appeal to the public on 12 June for details and clues to its original appearance.

The temple, under construction for some time, has now encountered a bottleneck: since it was used by No. 3 Girls Middle School from 1931, then No.159 Middle School later, most of its original features had long been lost due to inadequate restoration.

88-year-old Ma Zengxing, who lived in the narrow lane east to the temple, used to play outside the front gate when he was 7 years old. He followed the renovation project with great interest and came to the administrative office several times to donate some glazed tiles and zoomorphic ornaments used on the roof. "He said that he got these tiles when a neoclassic grain shop on the opposite street was demolished. He hoped that they could be useful to us. We went to his house

to bring them here. Unfortunately the tiles and the zoomorphic ornaments were pretty new, out of kiln only about 10 years ago. You can tell that from the shape, the roughcast, and the glaze," explained Mr. Lu Lihui, an expert from the restoration team. "But we did appreciate his enthusiasm."

"We feel very lucky to have this photo, a former student of No.3 Middle School, Ms.Jin Peilan, brought it to us the other day. It was taken on 28, Oc-

graduated from the school in 1948, and her classmates all went in pursuit of their different careers and lost touch with each other. "I visited one of my classmates, the only one I kept in touch with, during the Spring Festival this year, and found the photo in her album. I was always keeping an eye on the renovation of the temple, when I read on the newspaper that they were looking for things like this, I called the administration office without a second's hesitation," Ms.Jin said excitedly yet calmly. "I was so pleased when they told me the photo is very precious."

Another valuable donation is an article from a book published in the 40's. It includes information about the emperors and renowned officials worshipped and the words inscribed on the horizontal board at the main hall.

"The more we have detailed information like this, the better," said Mr. Jiang Yuequan. The collection of information is still underway, the administration office of the temple is looking forward to receiving your calls anytime on: 66160032 or 66161141.



Photo provided by Jin Peilan



Tiles from the Ming Imperial City Walls
Photo by Huang Xuyu

Items Always Beyond Reach

By Miao Yajie

"Three expensive items", a special term in the lives of common Chinese, has refreshed its connotations over the last several decades. In the 60's, the "three expensive items" referred to a wristwatch, bicycle, and sewing machine. During the 1960's, 70's, and the first years of the 80's, the planned economy restricted consumption by issuing manufacturing coupons or ration coupons. Usually buying one of the items required a family to save the coupons for one year or even longer. Moreover, each of the three items costs over 100 yuan, but the average salary per month was around 30 to 40 yuan. The "three expensive items" then became a dream for many people.

Black-and-white TV sets, washing machines, and radio cassette recorders were the "three expensive items" in the late 70's to the

Read Hutong

Hutong to the natives of Beijing is like what coral reef is to the marine aquatic animals. Hutong provides an environment for the survival of the natives of Beijing, which helps the formation of Beijing culture.
By Yang Xin



"Hey! Look at the wedding room. The walls are as white as snow. I've heard the bride's parents gave her three expensive items besides 8 synthetic cotton quilts, much better than the Songs in our yard. Wow! There is also a banquet!"

early 80's. The coupons made their exit from people's lives in around 1982, and the average salary increased rapidly in 1984 or 1985. The three items were still expensive, but affordable to more and more families. Color TV sets, refrigerators, and VCR players replaced the above three

items in the late 80's through the early 90's. The term "three expensive items" is less mentioned nowadays, as for those who were born in the 90's of the last century, it's hard for them to understand the poverty their parents experienced in past years. The newest "three

expensive items", actually three household necessities, as some say, are a computer, air conditioner, and microwave oven. It is quite noticeable that for the first time computers, an item much related to the spiritual life of people, is listed in their choices for quality of life.

Charisma of the Brush



Photo by Hu Jinxi

By Miao Yajie

"It is just great, to be in Beijing, to learn more about China, and to write with a brush," said Suchi Bang with a big smile. Bang and William Hor, two young stewards of Chinese origin from Air France are attending a one-week intensive language course at Beijing Language & Culture University along with other 11 colleagues beginning on 12 June.

"It's the first time I've ever held a brush. We speak *Chaozhou* dialect at home. I learned some of my *putonghua* from school and mostly from Hong Kong movies. The same is true of William. It's really fun to practice calligraphy, I think I'm going to continue practicing back in France," Hor nodded his head in approval listening to Bang's cheerful comments.

The language course is part of the "Inflight Asia" project aiming at

continually keeping up with the demands of inflight service for its growing numbers of Asian clients. The philosophy behind this improved service is the desire for the airline to be more "aware and sensitive" to cultural differences within the Asian context.

The calligraphy class was filled with peals of laughter during the one-hour practice. With a regular script model book by famous calligraphers like Yan Zhenqing and Liu Gongquan at hand, each of them chose the characters that attracted them most at first sight, then brandished their brushes very seriously, stroke by stroke. Though they might still be far from the essence of Chinese culture, the 13 French students aged from 54 to 26 did seem to enjoy this first time encounter with brush, ink and *Xuan* paper.

The joyful faces proved that the "Inflight Asia" Beijing stop has already been a success.

MIDI Pipa First in Beijing

By Zhu Lin

A new performance style for the Chinese traditional instrument 'Pipa' was explored at the young Pipa soloist Luan Yue's graduation concert at Beijing Concert Hall, June 15. For the first time in China, Luan played Pipa with a modern MIDI band, accompanied by her own singing.

The first part of the concert was Luan's solo performance of traditional Pipa music. Her brilliant skill and mature interpretation were amazing enough, but the audience were still a little bit impatient to see the new combination with Pipa and the MIDI band.

The first two pieces of music after the interval, were written by Liu Dehai, Luan's tutor, the most renowned contemporary Chinese Pipa artist. "On the Way Home" has a strong rhythm, and the guitar players Gong Ming and Meng Jun couldn't help themselves rocking to the music according to habit. But with the sudden realization that they were accompanying a traditional music instrument, they just moved their

bodies slightly. In contrast, Luan Yue held a very graceful manner. She combined a traditional Chinese woman's elegance together with the modern enthusiasm, without a single doubt about her creative artistic form.

The last piece was "Drunk Dance" (Zui Wu Mi Shang). Luan herself wrote the music and the lyrics. It was the first time that a master Pipa student performed her own composition in a graduation concert.

After listening to the concert, the 88-year-old Zhao Feng, former chairman of China Musicians' Association, said that he was touched by the young people's innovation, "I feel that Chinese traditional music has a bright future."



Photo by Zhao Wenxia

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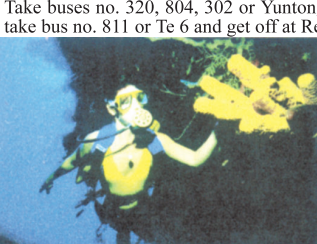
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New Limelight of Capital Gallery

a room in one of the six litionalcourtyard dwellings t mak up the Huizhong ace in southeast Bijjing, the dern paintings and callighly by the members of the ina Calligraphersand PaintSociety hangingon the walls the room facing the artyard's principal room the rhyard's principal room realthatyuhavestepped in to art gallery.

This room is attached to one the six courtyards It serves a gallery for beth regular diceasnnal cailigraphy and painting exhibitions The decor of the room offers a senes of former times to visitors ,with its floor inlaid with ancient Chinese coins and the display of furniture from the late Ming(1368-1644)and early Qing (1644-1911)dynasties.

Jiyazhai is the cultural centre of the palace where training classes in calligraphy,painting and antique appreciation are held. The students are of all lges and .from different ethnic groups and at different leveis.

All the antiques,ancient furniture,paintings and calligraphy are for sale and everything is genuine.

The two small rooms on both sides of the main room serve as multi-function rooms where small-scale meetints and discussions with purchasers can be held.

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The Accidental Death of an Anarchist

Adapted by Huang Jisu from the Drama of Dario Fo

Part ONE

(There is nothing on the stage except a sandbag hanging from the roof and swaying in the air. The head of police station walks around the sandbag, patting it contentedly.)

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: fifteen minutes, neither too much nor too little. Better than an electric clock, he needs no battery.

POLICEMAN A: Better than a sundial. He needs no sunlight and gives the correct time even in the cellar.

POLICEMAN B: Better than an egg timer, he urges people to go ahead.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: He is silent now. He seems be a cradle. It makes him sleepy.

POLICEMAN B: The more I think about it, the angrier I become. Do whatever you like, corrupting, robbing, drug trafficking, being a prostitute, committing murder, or setting things on fire. But if you are engaged in anarchist activities, I absolutely must stop you. (He points to the sandbag) Whom are you opposing? (He turns to the head of police station) Just think they are in power; we must be the first to be laid off! What will we do if we are unemployed? Don't hunt a panda. Don't hunt a tiger. Don't hunt a black swan.

POLICEMAN A: Don't hunt a white fox. Once you are not careful enough, you may kill a rare animal. Unlike the ordinary people, we can strike them at will. Shall we do a cat's work, waiting all day outside a hole to catch mice? Damn, (he turns to hit the sandbag, but stopped by the head of police station).

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: Well, well, go and do whatever you like. (He rubs the sandbag.) Does it hurt? I'm so angry you are on a wrong track. Let me rub for you, my child. (He starts to say a jingle)

Why do you want Great Harmony?
After all it's their world
You better have a rest
The small-mouthed are defeated by the big-mouthed
The long-legged gets rich first
The short-legged remains in ancient times
As long as you follow the rich and powerful, you will benefit from it
(He puts something in his mouth)
It's sweet candy from the USA
Well, why are his buttocks so cold? (He bends down to watch the sandbag closely)
He is dead long ago.
(Policeman A comes to the stage with a pair of gloves.)
POLICEMAN A: I feel uncomfortable if I don't give him a good lesson. I dreamed I was unemployed wandering on the streets like a pitiful stray dog.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: (He looks at Policeman A.) He is dead already.

POLICEMAN A: Dead? Good. But I bought this pair of gloves for nothing.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: Of course not. Do you have the invoice?

POLICEMAN A: (He gives the invoice to the head of police station.) Can I apply for reimbursement?

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: What are you thinking? It's the evidence.

POLICEMAN A: For what?

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: The murder.

POLICEMAN A: (He becomes nervous.) Evidence that we killed him?

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: Evidence that you killed him.

POLICEMAN A: (He becomes angry.) But it's your order and you struck him first.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: You mean, we cooperated in his death and I took the main responsibility?

POLICEMAN A: Yes.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: (in a soft voice) Have we signed any agreement?

POLICEMAN B: No.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: (excitedly) Are you really a policeman? You'd better go home before the anarchists succeed. Do you know evidence? To a policeman, remember, evidence, evidence and evidence. (He pats the man's sad face.) Look, how frightened you are. Can I betray you? To tell the truth, I'm so glad to know your firm stand that I want to adopt you as my son and give you money on behalf of the rich men in the world. I don't want the evidence that you killed him, let alone I killed him. What I want is the evidence that he died of a sudden illness or committed suicide under detention. In a word, it's not your fault, nor my fault, nor the police's fault, nor the government's fault, nor the state's fault.

POLICEMEN A, B: (They seemingly go out in a hurry.) Ok, we'll look for it at once.

HEAD OF POLICE STATION: Where are you going to look for it? (He points his temple.) Here, use your head. Don't act like a primitive animal.

.....



stage photoes of *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist* by Li Yan

Experimental dramas have caught people's eyes and gradually their acceptance over the last 10 years. Together with this rebellion against convention, directors like Meng Jinghui, and Mou Sen are still standing proudly with two feet on the stage. The book, *Archives of Avant-garde Dramas*, by Meng Jinghui represents some of the steps in their experiences in drama.

—from the editor



先锋戏剧档案			
书名	孟京辉	编者	孟京辉
出版	作家出版社	定价	19.90元
书号	9570000000000	ISBN	7-309-00000-0
内容	毛刺或无处藏身 我爱上 阿Q的 意外死亡 恋爱的犀牛		

We Have Changed the Face of Drama

“We are a group of young people who choose art as our own life style. In essence, art is life itself. The reason we choose art as our own life style is that we believe only in this way can our lives be satisfied and expressed to the full. In addition, we hope our performance can help raise the audience's aesthetic standards and emotions to a higher level. In this process we also lift and purify ourselves similar to a religious experience. The brilliance of our lives, we hope, can be conveyed to the audience, striking a deep chord within them.

As a newborn drama troupe, we are fresh, strong, full of vitality but immature. We do not pursue perfection. What we love is the pursuing process, pursuing itself. We will cultivate our own excellent actors or actresses and our own excellent dramatists.”

- Mou Sen,
from director's message of drama *God Brown*(1989)

Words from the Directors

“Hamlet is someone among us. Perhaps we meet him on the streets everyday. What tortured him is also torturing us everyday. We are daily facing the same choices he had to make. To be or not to be is a philosophical question. It also means big or trivial events in daily life. Or nothing, you must make your choice.

The Hamlet we're facing up to today is neither a revengeful Hamlet, nor a humanistic hero. What we're facing up to is ourselves. Facing up to ourselves is the most active, brave and heroic attitude we can take towards life in modern society.

Truly, except facing up to ourselves, we have no way out.”

- Lin Zhaohua,
from director's message of drama *Hamlet*(1990)

“These days, we firmly believe in our existence, and continue to move ahead. We try to avoid any possible degeneration through trying to please the public, avoid being a decoration in false and affected landscape paintings, avoid physical and spiritual exhaustion on our road of escape. We hope and pray that drama chooses us instead of our choosing drama, it's so important for us. When we realize there are gulfs between our ambitions and reality, when we sense a miracle is deserting us, we're very likely to be disappointed, but we won't be frustrated; we're very likely to be sad, but we won't come back empty-handed when night falls. However, the most significant thing so far may be: since the last day has not come yet, we can still wait.”

-Meng Jinghui,
from director's message of drama *Waiting for Godot*!(1991)

Epilogue

Meng Jinghui

In 1989, I met a group of friends in a shabby and messy dorm of the Central Academy of Drama. One of them was singing, one boiling cabbage on a kerosene stove, one making stage models with mud, one talking to his girlfriend. We discussed whether experimental drama was worthy trying, whether it had a bright future. At last we drew a conclusion: in any case we were going to try our hand at drama, we were going to change drama.

In fact, we were not satisfied with the stage dramas of ten

years ago, for they didn't mirror our thoughts. But at that time we had no money, no space and no right to speak. What we had was our active courage, desires, dreams and youth. Afterwards, we kept putting ourselves into the work, kept expressing our ideas on the stage. We made all kinds of decisions, overcame all kinds of difficulties while we suffered all kinds of hits, expected or unexpected. By the end of 1999, when we staged *Bootleg Faust*, I found ten years had passed.

Over the past ten years, we have changed the face of drama indeed.

I still remembered the scenes when we put on *A Fleet-footed Runner* or *Nowhere to Hide* in a

experimental performance season of 1991. It was in a cold small classroom in the Central Academy of Drama, and the audience was only 30 or 40. However, in 1998 when we ran *The Accidental Death of an Anarchist* for 30 consecutive nights, the audience increased to 36,000. Moreover, *Rhinoceros in Love* that we produced in the hottest days of 1999 turned out to be a box-office success. We ran it for 40 nights. We have changed the face of drama and influenced more people's lives through the dramas.

Avant-garde drama, experimental drama, vanguard drama, what fascinating names! What a proud creating process! What an inspiring ideal!

A Flurry of Korean Percussions



TOKEBI, the Korean Percussion Troupe hammered its way to Beijing's stage for the first time on June 15 to 17 at the China Minority Nationality Cultural Palace. Highlights of TOKEBI included not only their colorful hair and absurd dress, but also brilliant skill in percussion performing. By using everyday items such as a jug, bamboo pole, broom and sieve as instruments, they worked out complicated but precise beats. After watching their performance, many people in the audience cheered, "They break normality with crazy beats."

Photo by Cui Jun

Students' Drama beyond the Campus

By Zhu Lin

It's not very often to see Japanese dramas on Beijing's stages, let alone played by a group of students. Coming from different universities in Beijing, the Oriental Students Drama Theatre brought the Japanese drama "Life, Cat, Kazi Sang" to a the stage of the Midi Theatre of the Central Experimental Drama Theatre from June 8 to 14.

In the story, the family members accept Grandma's death naturally. Before her coffin, in order to bring her soul

back, they reveal each other's private lives and embarrassing domestic matters. The characters' personality and their relationships are revealed gradually instead of dramatically.

It was not easy for amateur students to play such a drama. Their acting was not that professional. But after all, the student theatre has finally go beyond the campus. The producer Wang Xiaowei said proudly, "I want to have our drama to become a spur to other theatres on campus, since they don't get enough encouragement."



Photo by Sheng Cha

Beijing to Witness Modern Visual Art

By Zhu Lin

The 2000 and 2001 award winning video spots at the European Media Art Festival (EMAF) in Osnabruck, Germany, will meet Beijing's audience for the first time at the Loft New Media Art Space on June 22. EMAF is one of the largest multi media events in Europe.

At the opening ceremony on May 31 and June 1, the exhibitions included Chinese and German Internet artists' works, video programs and conceptual photography. The modern artists' imagination is endless. Professor Zhu Qingsheng from Beijing University, for instance, put his camera inside a ball. When the ball is rolling across a gallery, the work is done.

On June 22, Ralt Sausmikat, a German scientist of new media and EMAF's host, will bring the video programs with him to Loft.

The exhibition is part of the 2001 China-Germany New Media Art Festival.



Loft New Media Space

Photo provided by Lin Tianfang
tival held in Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai from May 31 to June 30. It is sponsored by the Modern Art Association of Beijing University and Goethe Institute in Beijing.

"Should I Rock for a New Band?"

By Yi He

"Fly", a new rock band and one of the most well-known Chinese bands, "Black Leopard", gave a joint performance on June 14 at CD Cafe. Each one provoked a totally different reaction from the audience. Fly's beautiful melody didn't get many cheers, while "Black Leopard" stirred up the fans' recurring warm reaction as always.

"Fly" started their performance with a wild sound wave which drove people's imagination to far-off places. But the audience remained cool. They just hesitantly stood away from the stage. There were only two young people, a foreign girl and a Chinese man dancing in front of the stage. Some people took an envious glance at them from time to time, but nobody joined



Photo by Huang Xuyu

their dancing. They had to decide whether they should dance or not.

However, as soon as "Black Leopard" jumped onto the stage, the cafe was suddenly full of hysterical cries and applause. During their singing, more and more people joined in the dancing. "We haven't changed a lot," Qin Yong, singer of "Black Leopard" said. In fact, the fans' warm dancing was purely out of habit, rather than actual feelings got

from the music. The obvious contrast in reaction from the audience made the young performers confused. "We are not sure how to work out our own style," Wang Chao, the singer of "Fly" said after their performance, "In China, perhaps it's a little bit hard for a new band to get encouragement from the audience."

Another Boys & Girls

by Li Dan

"We were boys and girls, we are boys and girls forever," says a plaque on the wall. Boys & Girls is a popular bar in Sanlitun Bar Street, but do you know there is also a music restaurant called Boys & Girls near Yayuncun (Asian Game Village). It's a three-story, red brick building in a European architectural style. Stepping into the restaurant, you will be struck by its distinctive decoration.



Photo by Fan Xuedong

It is a little unusual, in that it is decorated entirely in a western style, but serves only traditional Chinese cuisine.

On the ceiling is a huge reproduction of a nude by Da Vinci, smiling down at the people. There are numerous western style paintings and pictures, and posters of western musicians, artists and movie stars, sports stars and even animal stars everywhere, on the ceiling, walls and pillars. The owner of the restaurant brought these pic-

tures and posters from the U.S.A. Different styles of music are played at different times, depending on the mood and atmosphere, anything from classical to jazz, pop to country. The food is southern Chinese style, and the most popular dish is fish head braised in brown sauce. The combination of western culture and Oriental cuisine works very well, no wonder the waitress recommended booking a day in advance.

Add: Building B, Huizhongli (慧忠里), Chaoyang District, 150 meters west of Yangguang Plaza(阳光广场), on the north side of the road.

Open: 11 am-10 pm. English menu provided. **Tel:** 64924327

Handmade Shoes

by Wen Long



Photo by Ren Guangping

Shopping for shoes can be a painful experience, both in terms of finding a style you really like among the thousands you wouldn't be seen dead in, and then getting a pair that are actually comfortable to walk around in for more than five minutes. One alternative is to

have a pair tailor made. Aeolian Bell (or Feng Ling / 风铃) has a shoemaking factory in the suburbs of Beijing, established in 1993, and two shops in the city.

In their shop in Ping'an Avenue, there are more than 40 different styles to choose from in both modern and traditional Chinese styles for men and women. They can also make shoes according to customers' order and design. Prices range from 380 yuan to 3,000 yuan, depending on the style and the type of leather. You can choose from cow or sheep, or if you want something a little more exotic, kangaroo, ostrich, or lizard skin are also available.

In 1997, they won the Golden Eagle Cup Award issued by the American Light Industrial Products Appraisal International Association. The shop owner, Jiang Long, says, "Compared with Le Saunda and Pierre Cardin, our products are much cheaper, but by no means inferior to them in quality, and they will last longer!"

Some shop assistants there can speak a little English. They can answer simple questions about the price and quality, however if you want more detailed information, you might need to take an interpreter with you.

Open: 9 am-6 pm
Add: 27 Houche Hutong(后车胡同), Ping'an Li (east of Zhaodengyu Lu); 2 Huaibai-shu Jie (槐柏树街), Xuanwu District (south of Guohua Market) **Bus:** 118 to Ping'an Hospital **Tel:** 66134266

Zhang's Textiles

—Framed Embroidery

by Li Dan

The embroidery of ancient China is a constant source of wonder to anyone with an appreciation for what can be done with a needle and thread, a bit of patience and a pair of skilled hands. Zhang's Textiles is a store dealing in such exquisite embroidery from the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

Unlike most Chinese antique businesses, Zhang's Textiles display and sell these articles as framed collages, ready to decorate the walls of your home. Elaborate pieces of embroidery, such as the collar of a wedding dress, ornate sleeve bands, dragon robes and Mandarin squares, which designated the status of court officials, even tiny silk shoes for women's bound feet are beautifully mounted and framed.

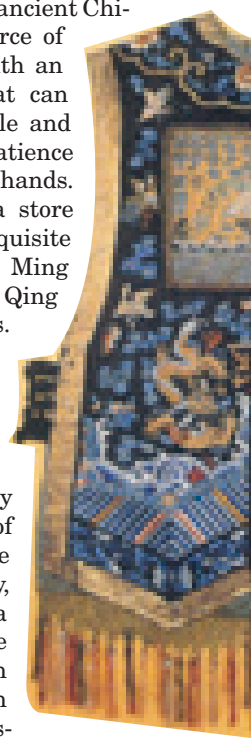
Mason Zhang, the second-generation managing director of this family-owned business say his father has been collecting robes and dresses since the 1970s. But the antique textiles are too fragile to stand constant handling and he finally came up with the idea of cutting them into parts and selling them as framed art works.

The finest embroideries were made for the Imperial Court in the Forbidden City, and at Zhang's Textiles, you will find such rare pieces as the wedding hat of an empress, decorated with silver and the blue feathers of a kingfisher, and a piece of a gown claimed to be worn by Qing Emperor Yong Zheng, sewn with gold thread. Prices for pieces of embroidery range from 100 to tens of thousands of yuan. The shop also sell some small wares such as children's tiger hats, hanging articles and sleeve bands, as well as reproductions of antique embroidery, which are considerably cheaper than the originals.

Zhang's Textiles has gained some overseas fame. Former U.S. President Bill Clinton bought a pair of framed embroidered pieces, a gold dragon and gold phoenix here during his visit to China in 1998. But be warned, you're likely to leave this shop with your purse or wallet significantly lighter than when you entered.

Add: China World Trade Center, (Guomao) NB140, B1, near the Skating Rink, **Bus:** 1, 4, 57, 28, 48, or 9 or subway, to China World Trade Center.

Open: 9 am-9:30 pm
Tel: 65066201



Blessing from The Orient

by Jiao Pei

Walking beside Houhai (the Back Lake) one hot summer day, I saw a beautiful lady wearing a purple skirt and a straw hat with a purple silk ribbon, sitting outside a small, green painted shop, and I felt I must pay a visit.

The shop is called Blessing from the Orient, and it sells various kinds of arts and crafts, such as pottery, copper sculptures, paintings, lanterns, decorations, as well as art books and a selection of hand made clothes. The shop owner is an artist named Wang Dong (she is often called Dong Zi), who is a well-known potter. That lady in purple is Dong Zi's partner, Yu Jie. She works in Singapore and manages the shop in her spare time.

The shop's outside wall are decorated with various art works, and the floor inside is inlaid with porcelain tiles. Every cabinet door is beautifully decorated, and many attractive art works are exhibited there. The prices are relatively high, but reasonable in terms of the quality of the work. The customers are mostly foreigners, students in art school, musicians, bar owners and art-lovers. Many of them have become friends with the two owners and often come there to chat. Though

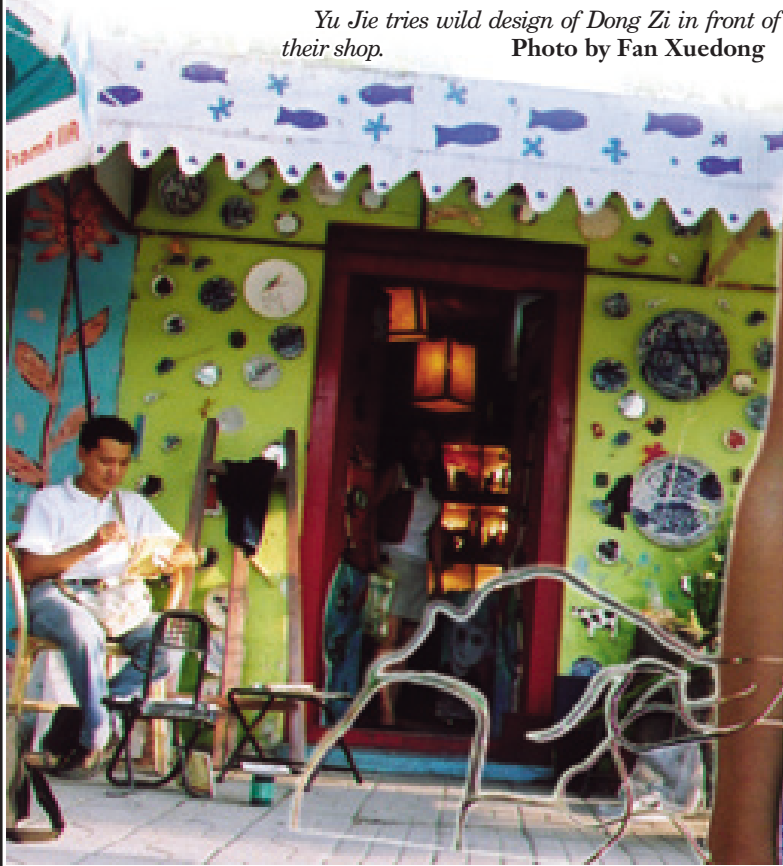
Yu Jie doesn't spend long in Beijing, she likes to hold small parties outside the shop, beside the green lake. As long as you leave your telephone number, they will invite you to join them. They lay tables and chairs along the lake, buy food, invite a band to provide entertainment.

When I visited a second time with the photographer, Yu Jie and Dong Zi were busy designing their own fashion show. Yu Jie is the model and Dong Zi is the designer. The bright colors created a lively scene the photographer found irresistible.

Yu Jie told me their dream is to make this street alongside the lake a culture & art street. There are already 3 other art shops there, run by graduates from the Central Institute of Fine Arts. And they plan to open a second shop in Kerry Center in the near future.

Open: 10 am-9 pm
Add: 14 Houhai Nanyan (后海南沿), Xicheng District
Tel: 66515392

Yu Jie tries wild design of Dong Zi in front of their shop.
Photo by Fan Xuedong



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Housing Bank

By Xu Yan

If you have some spare cash, apart from spending it on traveling around world, what do you do with it? Probably save it in a bank or invest it somewhere. Likewise if you need a large sum of money in a hurry, you can get a loan from the bank. In Beijing, there are now 'housing banks' for 'saving' your spare houses or apartments, and providing accommodation for 'loan', i.e. for rent. Junyuehang Real Estate Consulting Co. is such a 'Housing Bank'.

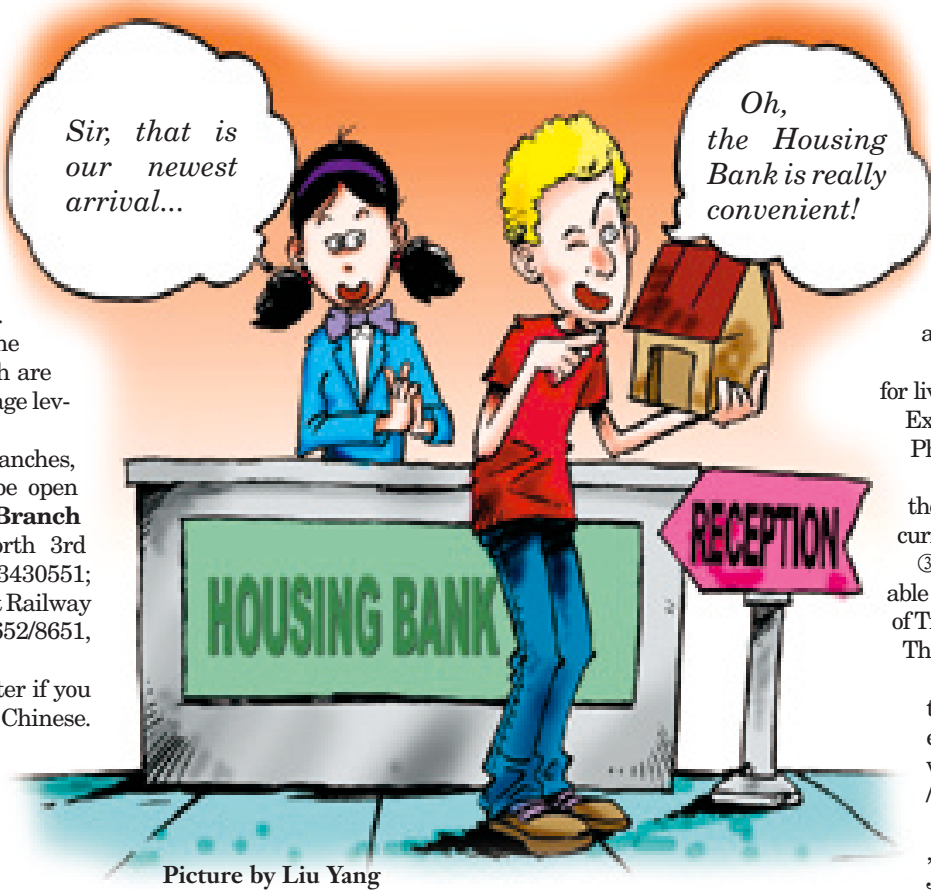
At **Junyuehang** (君悦行), apartments and houses are the 'money'. They save and manage them according to a series of regulations. Property owners sign a formal 'Period Contract', covering price, terms, duties and rights after the property has been assessed by Junyuehang. Professional estate agents determine a rental price, which the company pays to the owner for the period of the contract, regardless of whether they rent the property or not. They started the business last October, and just by word of mouth, it has developed rapidly. Around 1,000 new contracts are signed every month.

They have apartments and houses of-

ficially approved for foreigners ranging from 3,500 to 6,000 per month, most of which are located near the 3rd and 4th ring roads. Apart from the actual rent, they don't charge the renter any fees. They agree with the owner of the property on a reasonable fee, which are generally even lower than the average level of the market.

There are currently just two branches, but many more are expected to be open by the end of this year. **Anzhen Branch** -- near Anzhen Qiao on the North 3rd Ring Road, phone 64482596/2597, 63430551; **Wanzi Branch** -- near Beijing West Railway Station, phone 63430549/8560/8652/8651, 63497145.

Remember to bring an interpreter if you cannot speak or read very well in Chinese. Junyuehang will clean and furnish the houses before renting them out, but not all housing banks will do so free of charge. The renter must still pay 2% of the annual rent as tax to the government each year. Housing banks usually ask the renter to sign a contract for at least a half year.



Picture by Liu Yang

Living Away From the Ring Roads

By Xu Yan

Besides living near the ring roads, still we have other choices of the apartments in the suburbs of the city. This week we introduce some new fine projects far away from even the 4th Ring Road:

North: ①Jade Villa (Cuihu Bieshu, 翠湖别墅), ready for living, out of Xiaotangshan Exit at the west of Badaling Expressway, The current lowest price is 11,000 yuan /m². Phone 64910619/62476130.

East: ②Capital Paradise (名都园), ready for living, at the Wenyuhe Bridge of Wenyu River, Shunyi County. The current lowest price is \$1,700/m². Phone 80465356/5357.

③Lomond Lake (Laimenghu Villa, 莱蒙湖别墅), available for living on 09/2001 Southeast of Xibai Xinzhuang, left of Tianzhu Exit on the Jingshun Highway, Shunyi County. The current price is \$2,300/m². Phone 80462266.

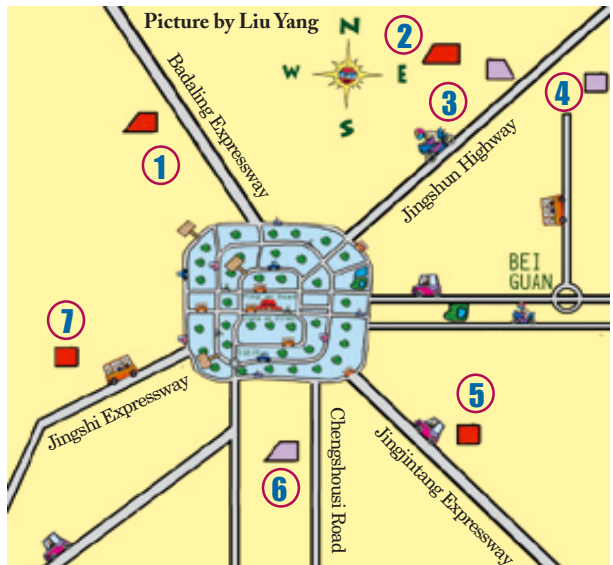
④Single House (Jinbao Villa, 金宝别墅), the 2nd district will be available for living on 10/2001, at Mapo, east of the Kuliushu Huandao, on the Jingshun Highway, Shunyi County. The current price is 7,100 yuan /m². Phone 69405088/5006.

South: ⑤Garden Villa (Tian Zun Yuan, 天尊苑), ready for living, at the Exit of Dayangfang on the Jingintang Expressway, Daxing County. The current price is 4,800 yuan /m². Phone 87301356/2289.

⑥Xing Dao Jia Yuan (星岛嘉园), available for living on 09/2001, at the west of Chengshousi Road, Yizhuang, Daxing County. The current price is 4,300 yuan /m². Phone 67871167/89.

West: ⑦Long Hua Yuan (Town House, 龙华苑), near the Liangxiang Airport, beside the Beijing - Shijiazhuang Expressway, Fangshan District. The current lowest price is 2,730/m². Phone 89362796/89353496.

The above data is the latest available. Provided in part from C. B. Consulting.



Picture by Liu Yang

Hunting at Housing Exhibition

By Xu Yan

Last week, the 2001 Summer Housing Exhibition began at the China World Hotel Exhibition Center. In Beijing, the most popular way of searching for a new house or apartment is by attending housing exhibitions.

Who: There are three star players involved in the housing shows; the new houses and apartments themselves, the developers and sales agents, and of course, you, the visitors.

Where: Housing Exhibitions are usually held at the International Exhibition Center, the China World Hotel Exhibition Center, the Beijing Exhibition Stadium and the Agricultural Exhibition Stadium.

When: As the housing market is changing constantly, these exhibitions are held frequently, once or

twice a season, and for several days each time.

To find out when and where, look for ads (or ask a Chinese friend to look for ads!) in popular newspapers such as Beijing Youth Daily, Beijing Evening News, Beijing Daily and on TV, BTV-1/2/3, or phone directly to the above exhibition centers to ask them about the schedule.

What is on show: Usually models or plans of the houses or apartments. Developers see these exhibitions as good opportunities to advertise their projects, so they tend to spend a lot of money on making them as splendid and attractive as possible, and they often employ beautiful girls to introduce the properties.

The developers or sale agents usually have purchase contracts

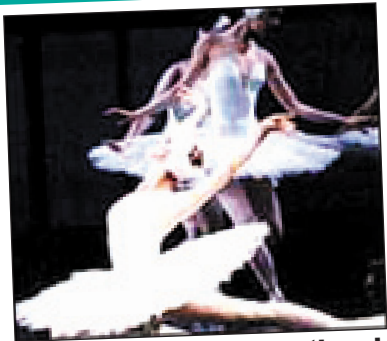
ready for signing, and often offer a substantial discount if you sign a contract or pay a deposit for a property on the spot. However you should never sign a contract or pay any deposit unless you have investigated the property first hand. Developers and agents are prone to exaggerate the virtues of their properties! You should also check out the qualifications of the developer or the sales agent, (as explained in "Yes! You can buy" on this page, May 25 2001.), or ask your lawyer or an experienced friend to do this for you.

"HOUSING" welcome your feedback: What kind of difficulties do you encounter when looking for housing in Beijing? What kind of information do you need? What can we help you with?
Our E-mail: jianrong@ynet.com
Tel: 65902522 Fax: 65902525



Photo by Chen Shuyi

Performances



The New Siberia National Opera and Ballet Troupe

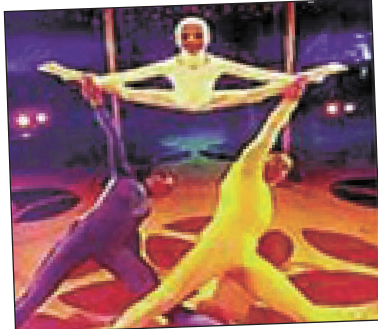
Renowned both in Russia and abroad, during its visit to China, the troupe will showcase Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. Highly recommended. Swan Lake, June 22 - 23, 7:30pm. The Nutcracker Suite, June 25-26, 7:30pm. Beizhan Theater(北展剧场) 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng District. Tickets: 80,120, 180, 240, 300, 380 yuan. Tel: 68354455.

Sleeping Beauty, 7:30pm, June 27, 28, Century Theater(世纪剧

院), Tickets: 80, 160, 220, 280 yuan, Add: Sino-Japanese Youth Exchange Center, north of Lufthansa Center(燕莎), Tel: 64660032, Tickets available at http://piao.com.cn.

Puppet Show

Forest Tales (森林的故事), Where: Small Theatre, China Puppet Theatre(中国木偶剧院), A1



Anhua Xili(安华西里), Chaoyang District Pinocchio. When: June 23, 24, 9:30am, 10:30pm. Admission: 25 yuan (one parent & child).

The most outstanding Chinese acrobatics

These acrobats are the first-

level ones from around the country. They will be performing to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party. Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nandajie, Dongcheng District, bus 106 or subway to Dongsishitiao(东四十条). When: June 24-28, 7:30 pm. Admission: 80-580 yuan Tel: 65065345 / 65001188-5126

Dance Performance

By Yang Liping (杨丽萍), Huang Doudou(黄豆豆) & Liu Min(刘敏): Flourishing Age & brilliant works. Where: China Grand Theater (中国剧院), A 27 Wanshousi Haidian District, Bus 323, 374, 811 to Wanshousi (万寿寺). When: June 23-25, 7:30pm. Admission: 60-380 yuan. Tel: 65598291 (for ticket).

Exhibitions

Olympic Sports Buildings Schematic Designs Exhibition The exhibition shows the great confidence of Beijing's architects in hosting the Olympics in 2008. Where: 1st floor Henderson Center, No. 18 Jiangguomennei Dajie, opposite Beijing International Hotel, bus 1, 4, 52, 37, 10 or subway to Beijing Railway Station. Time: now - June 30. Tel: 65186518.

New works from the Courtyard Gallery Ink & wash works by Li Jin. Where:

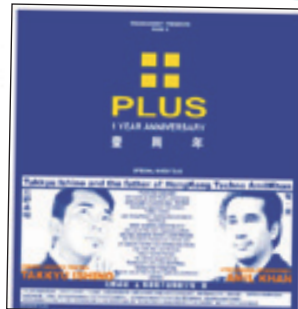


Courtyard Gallery, 95 Donghuanmen Dajie (东华门大街) Dongcheng District. When: June 24 - July, Mon - Sat, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm, Sun 12:00 am - 7:00 pm. Free. Tel: 65268882.

Auction

Traditional Chinese Art Many works of paintings, calligraphy, ancient books, the four treasures of the study (ink, ink stones, brushes and paper), pottery and jade articles will be on exhibition and then on sale. Preview: June 27-29, from 9:00am, Auction Time: June 30 - July 2, from 9:00am, Where: 3rd floor, Banquet Hall, Jingguang Zhongxin, Chaoyang District. Tel: 65978888 -2615.

Musics



Guzheng Recital by Mao Ya: China Youth Symphony Orchestra, Conductor: Liu Sha. Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhuajie, Liubukou, West Chang'an Avenue. Bus 7 to Liubukou (六部口). When: Sunday, June 24, 7:30 pm.

Admission: 30-200 yuan. Tel: 66057006.

56 Nationalities traditional instrument concert: Central Ethnic Song And Dance Ensemble plays instruments of various ethnic groups Conductor: Yang Chunlin. Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall, Zhongshan Park. When: Friday, June 29, 7:30 pm. Admission: 30-280 yuan. Tel: 65598294.

PLUS (a dancing group) 1st anniversary Party: Special guest DJs: Takkyu Ishino, Amil Khan. A night of world-class Techno featuring Japanese mix wizard Takkyu Ishino and Hongkong's leading

beat producer, Amil Khan. Where: Club Orange, 2, #10 Alley Xingfuyicun Chaoyang District. When: Saturday, June 23. Admission: 100 yuan. Tel: 64157413.

Music from Get Lucky Bar: Beautiful Drug Store, Ruins. When: Friday, June 22. Where: Get Lucky Bar, 500m east of Jingmao Uni. (经贸大学).



Movies

German Movies Aguirre: The Wrath of God (三侠屠龙) Director: Werner Herzog, 1972. My Best Friend, Director: Volker Schlöndorff, 1999. Chinese Subtitles, Where: Box Cafe, 5 Xiwangzhuang Xiaoqu (西旺庄小区), opposite Tsinghua Tongfang Mansion. Bus 375 to east gate of Tsinghua Uni-

versity. When: Saturday, June 23, 7:00pm. Admission: 5 yuan (including one beverage). Tel: 62791280.

Life in the Suburbs (城郊生活) 1995, French, English subtitles, 80 minutes. Where: French School Cinema, 13 Dongsijie Sanlitun Chaoyang District, When: Tuesday, Thursday, June 26, 28, 7:30pm. Admission: free, Tel: 65321422.

Traffic

Roadwork Announcement Andingmenwai Dajie(安定门外大街), from Andingmen(安定门) to Shatan(沙滩) Liangguangdajie(两广大街), from Guang'anmen (广安门) to Guangqumen (广渠门). Xizhimenwai Dajie(西直门外大街), from Zizhuqiao (紫竹桥) to Xizhimenqiao(西直门桥).

Traffic Control From June 18 to 28, during the Technology Achievements Exhibition in Beijing Exhibition Center, Xizhimenwai Dajie, from Xizhimenqiao(西直门桥) to Baishiqiao(白石桥), and Zhanlanqiao Lu, from the intersection of Zhanlanlu(展览路) and Chegongzhuang Dajie(车公庄大街) to the Exhibition Center (展览馆) will be closed to all traffic, except buses and vehicles with Exhibition Passes, at certain times. (See picture on the left)



Weather

WEEKEND

Saturday, 23, June
Clear to cloudy
Max: 30C.
Min: 20C.

Sunday, 24, June
Clear/ cloudy
Max: 29C.
Min: 21C.

NEXT WEEK

Monday, 25, June
Clear/ cloudy
Max: 31C. Min: 20C.

Tuesday, 26, June
Clear/ cloudy
Max: 32C.
Min: 22C.



Wednesday, 27, June
Clear
Max: 35C.
Min: 23C.



Thursday, 28, June
Clear to cloudy, shower
Max: 36C.
Min: 21C.



Friday, 29, June
Overcast to cloudy, shower
Max: 31C.
Min: 19C.



Air Quality Forecast

Saturday, June 23
Strong air humidity leads to lower visibility.

Sunday, June 24
Clear to cloudy and shower, easy for dispersion of suspended particles.

By Jiao Pei, Li Dan

We are glad to receive your feedback. You can contact us by bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or 65902522

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Donghuan Guangchang,
29 Dongzhong jie,
Dongcheng District
东城区东中街 29 号东环广场 B 幢 3 层
11:00-14:30, 17:00-22:00
6856.9388

Beijing Roast Duck
北京烤鸭店

Building 3, Tuanjie Lake, Chaoyang District
朝阳区团结湖北口 3 号楼
11:40-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6852.4003

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★6 月 30 日~7 月 9 日 **8 折**
★7 月 10 日~7 月 19 日 **9 折**

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Da jie, Dongcheng District
东城区王府井大街 新东安商场 5 层
11:00-14:00, 17:00-21:30
6528.0932

Fan Shi Gang
饭是纲

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Climbing Swimming Abseiling and Trekking at Xiaowutai Mountain

by Wang Dandan

I've been considering for some time now the possibility of doing something on the weekend other than sleeping. So when the opportunity arose to go mountain climbing with some friends, I seized it with something verging on enthusiasm.

I set out, along with my companions from the Yesing club (one of those outdoor adventure health and fitness type clubs) late on a rather cold Friday evening. The 20 of us were in a minibus, but this was no ordinary minibus, it was a sleeper minibus, and we were all tucked up in bed for the journey. What a wonderful way to travel!

We each had a rather enormous (and heavy) backpack, crammed with sleeping bag, moisture-proof mat, clothes, shoes, food and other necessities.

The journey started at 22:50pm to the music the Cup of Life, which seemed somehow appropriate.

At around 4:50 am next morning, we arrived at the foot of Xiaowutai Mountain. We were divided into two groups; one to fool around on lower slopes of the mountain, and the other to climb up to the summit. They were planning to make the three day ascent and return in just two days, and didn't want a newbie like myself slowing them down. Those of us who were staying behind christened them the 'self-abuse group'; an accurate description, and in return,



they called us 'corruption group', as our chief duties seemed to be having fun, and most importantly, eating.

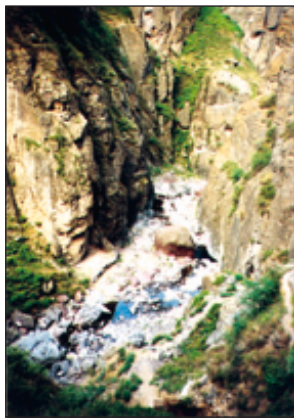
Waving like brave heroes, the 'corruption group' set out resolutely up the mountain. Feeling a bit overwhelmed by the moment, the rest of us sat down and began our breakfast.

First stop, Jinhekou

Encircled by mountains runs the beautiful Jinhekou valley. Up the stream we went, deep into the wonderfully picturesque valley. Lines of stones

sit in the stream. It is real mineral water, pure, clean, better than the bottled water they sell in shops, so they say. Jinhekou is the gateway to Xiaowutai Mountain. Well, it's the gateway to the lower bit, at least.

After walking for a short time, we arrived at Heilongtan (Black Dragon Pond), the mountain's most famous scenic spot. There is an interesting story about this place. Long ago, as a way of warding off floods and droughts, people would send children, one boy and one girl each time, to the local temple, from where they would be thrown into the



river to appease the local dragon. In ancient China, dragons were believed to have control over water.

Years elapsed, many children were sacrificed, but the floods and droughts continued to plague the people. One day, a fairy dragon living in heaven heard about what was happening and asked the king of heaven to let her go down to help the poor people. The king agreed and the dragon, named Heilong or Black Dragon, for her black skin, went down to the world. Heilong arrived at the place and took up residence in the river. She kindly arranged for it to rain at regular intervals in convenient quantities, and the people were able to have bumper harvests, year after year. So, the place where Heilong stayed became known as Heilongtan ('tan' means pond in Chinese).

There are two ways to climb the valley; one is along the stream, jumping from one rock to the next, and the other is by climbing the mountain path that runs alongside the stream. Neither way seemed very easy to me. When you jump, you have a big, heavy pack on your back, and it is easy to lose your balance. But if you climb, the heavy bag always drags you back to the bottom. I did not feel any sense of 'corruption' at all; it



seemed much more like 'self abuse'. I used both my hands to help my feet, and before long my heart was pounding in my chest from the exertion.

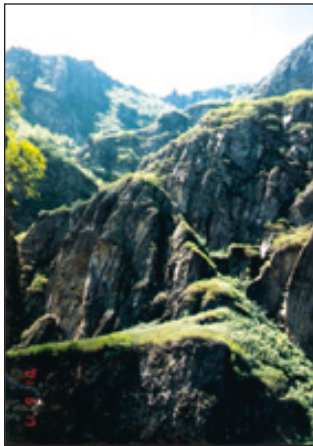
Second stop, pagoda forest

As we continued along the seemingly endless path, we saw a pagoda forest standing on our left. These pagodas hold Shelizi (舍利子), a kind of mineral left after the cremation of monks. Because the monks are vegetarians all their life, when they are cremated, Shelizi is all that remains. Unfortunately we could not find a way up, we could only see the pagodas from the bottom. Probably the monks do not want to be disturbed after their death.

As we were the 'corruption' group, when we arrived at the grassland 2 hours later, we set up our tents for the night.

Abseiling

At 2:00 that afternoon, after a 3-hour rest, we prepared to go abseiling. This was really a challenge. Looking down the cliff, knowing I was going to have to jump from the top, I was more than a little scared. In fact, on the first attempt, I couldn't do it, I simply froze.



The thought of just hanging by a rope, with nothing but air behind me, and a cliff in front, kind of puts things in perspective. However with a little help from my friends, I finally worked up the courage to jump. Everything was ok, I was not broken into little pieces, but swung in the air like a bird; well, like a bird

attached to a rope.

Third stop, Xiaowutai Mountain

Xiaowutai Mountain is the highest mountain in Hebei Province, with an altitude of 2882 meters. It has five peaks: eastern, western, southern, northern and middle peak, which is why it is named Xiaowutai (five peaks).

As Xiaowutai is so high, the climate changes considerably from the base to the summit. You step from warm grassland to ice and snow. The four seasons coexist at different altitudes,

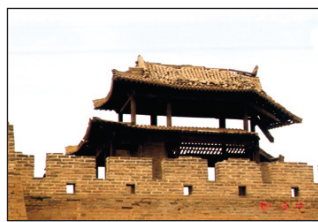
a feature that is particularly apparent during the spring, summer and fall, as the color of the plants varies according to how high up the mountain you are.

A local grandpa told us that as few people come here and the forest is very dense, many animals live on the mountain. If you are lucky enough, you may see some of these lovely animals.

We, together with numerous insects and a reptile or two, slept in the tent, as outside it rained heavily during the night.

Fourth stop, Jimingyi city

Jimingyi, or Jiming post (a place where couriers once stopped to change horses and rest), is located at the foot of Jiming Mountain, Huailai county. The wall surrounding Jimingyi was built during the Yuan dynasty, with a length of 2330m and height of 11.7m. In 1219, Ghengis Khan set up this post on his way to the west. Most people living there today are descendants of the couriers.



Jimingyi holds a very important position in the history of Chinese courier posts. Because of its special strategic location, it grew from a small post into a city. Today, it is the largest and best preserved ancient post in China. The house of the post head and other officials, though teetering on the verge of collapse, still stand in the city. The post also has 8 temples: Yongning temple, Longshen Temple (dragon temple), Baiyiguanyin temple, Caishen temple, Guandi temple, Pudu temple, Taishan temple and Chenghuang temple. Yongning temple is the oldest structure in the post, with a history of over 800 years.

A road links the eastern and western gates. On each gate are 81 doornails, as the Chinese emperors regarded 9 as a lucky number and $9 \times 9 = 81$! On the west side of the road, a local grandma told us, is a house where Cixi, the last empress dowager of the Qing dynasty, stayed when she escaped from Beijing. Walking around the post, there is little to tell you that this is the twenty first century. It is as if you have journeyed back hundreds of years to ancient China. Although I've been to many historic places in China, this is the first to give me such a strong sense of something ancient.

For this city, you can either go there on your returned way from Xiaowutai or go directly from the Yongdingmen train station to Xiahuayuan stop only for one day tour. When you arrive at the stop, hire a local taxi to Jimingyi. No ticket charge.

Last stop, the railway station

We are back finally, back to modern times. It was quite an interesting journey. For more details, you can visit www.Yesing.com.cn, or you can travel yourself to the places mentioned above.

Beijing(北京) Badaling(八达岭) Guanting(官厅) Gongshan(贡山) Chadao(岔道) Zhuolu(涿鹿) Dapu(大堡) Taohua(桃花) Yuxian(蔚县) Changning(常宁) Jinhekou(金河口)

Note: Recommended clothing: coat, trousers, raincoat, T-shirt, sporting socks, gloves, sun-glasses, shoes for mountain climbing and sandals.

You should take: knife, torch, food container, plastic cup, towel, sun cream, band aids, a water bottle and food.

Bicycle Tours



Picture by Chen Guangzhong

White Stupa Temple

by Chen Guangzhong, Jiang Zhong

You cannot miss the White Stupa, rising over the gray tiled roofs of the one-story houses at Xisi. The body of the giant stupa is round, in the shape of an overturned alms bowl. On the top is an elegant copper canopy, from which hang dozens of bells that can be heard jingling in the distance on windy days. The Miao Ying Temple White Stupa, is the biggest Tibetan Buddhist Stupa in China.

In old Beijing, the White Stupa Temple was one of the most important spots for holding temple fairs. In 1978, workers engaged in repair work discovered many historical relics of the Qing Dynasty in the top part of the stupa. The temple has been open to the public since 1980. It now comprises of the gate, the Bell Tower, the Drum Tower, the Hall of Seven Buddhas, the side halls and rooms, the abbots' courtyard, the Tripitaka Pavilion and the Stupa Courtyard. In the Hall of the Great Enlightened Ones, stand more than 8,000 Buddhas in various postures. Most of them are Tibetan style. A wooden Sakyamuni statue, Buddha of Apothecary and Amitabha, carved during the Qing Dynasty can be found in the Hall of Buddhas of the Three Periods.

The Hall of the Seven Buddhas(七佛宝殿) is the most interesting part of the temple. All the original Buddhas stored in the hall have been completely destroyed, successors of these Buddhas, such as the Sakyamuni statue, Buddha of Apothecary and Amitabha, were taken from the Hu Guo Temple. The sixteen Buddhas lining the two sides of the hall are from the Nian Hua Temple, which used to stand at Deshengmen Wai.

A Buddha of a different style standing in one corner of the hall stands out. It is said that this Buddha is made of the corporeal body of the Zen Master Hai Yun (海云禅师) and incense ash produced in the temple. The Zen Master Hai Yun was one of the famous Buddhist Monks of the early Yuan Dynasty. After he died, his body was embalmed, then the incense ash was applied to the body and the Buddha statue that can be seen today eventually came into being.

Whether the Buddha is made of the corporal body of the Zen Master Hai Yun or not has not been proven. Regardless of whether it is true or not, the legend certainly contributes to the magic charm of these precious cultural relics.

Open: 8:30 - 17:00

Ticket: 10 yuan

Where: Fuchengmennei Dajie, take bus 103 to Baitasi(白塔寺) stop.

Tel: 66160211